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SOUND AND VISION

FROM CAT PEOPLE TO YOUNG AMERICANS, DAVID BOWIE'S MUSIC ADDS THE (DANCE) MAGIC TOUCH TO MOVIE SOUNDTRACKS

PAGES 34 & 35

Odds against Toronto casino

OLG has been told not to offer Toronto a big payout in order to build a casino downtown, which means the proposal may be sunk PAGE 3

Fords help out beauty queen

A U of T student is leading in the Miss World Canada pageant polls thanks to the support of her fans — which include the mayor and his brother PAGE 20

Obama visits an old friend

Eager to reassure an anxious ally, the U.S. president promises Israel to do whatever is necessary to keep Iran from obtaining nuclear arms PAGE 19

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

The penniless millionaire

Money comes and goes. Hamilton lotto winner has blown through nearly $10M in less than 10 years

Nine years after cashing her $10.5-million cheque, Hamilton lotto winner Sharon Tirabassi is catching the bus to her part-time job so she can support her kids and pay the rent.

Tirabassi, 35, has gone from rolling in dough to living paycheque to paycheque.

The Lotto Super 7 payout didn't come with a financial adviser and before she knew it — big house, fancy cars, designer clothes, lavish parties, exotic trips, handouts to family, loans to friends — the money was gone.

"You don't think it'll go (at the time), right?" Tirabassi says.

She'd check her account now and again, but there were always so many zeroes that she figured it was fine — until one day there was just three-quarters of a million left.

"And that was time for fun to stop and to just go back to life," she says.

Before her win, Tirabassi had been living in an east Hamilton apartment with her three kids at the time, each from a different father.

She now works part-time as a personal support worker and is raising her six kids in a rented house in downtown Hamilton, not far from where she started.

Asked about how life turned out for them, her husband, Vinny, 35, shrugs, smoking a cigarette in the doorway of their home.

"I lived like this my whole life, I never was rich," he says.

Pretty much all that's left now is in trust for Tirabassi's kids when they turn 26.

The walls of the modest home are covered in family photos and the odd relic from flashier times — Michael Jackson memorabilia for her, Maple Leafs mementos for him.

For someone who spent her teen years bouncing from shelter to shelter, Tirabassi was unprepared for the millionaire lifestyle — the money felt like cash for life.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The value of a dollar

"Every so often they ask for money and I say I don't have any money till payday. You have to wait till payday."

That's not just a line Hamilton lotto winner Sharon Tirabassi gives to her kids — her $10.5-million is almost all gone.

STUDDED AND STUNNING

Designer Joe Mimran had his models in short, black wigs at Toronto Fashion Week on Wednesday, which matched the monochrome theme of his fall 2013 Joe Fresh collection. For a full gallery and coverage of Thursday's runway shows, visit metronews.ca. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ashley Smith case

Warden re-hired after inmate death

The warden fired shortly after Ashley Smith's 2007 death is again working with the Correctional Service of Canada, but her position and date of hire are being kept secret by the agency.

Cindy Berry was fired from Kingston's Grand Valley Institution for Women on May 5, 2008. She subsequently complained to the Public Service Labour Relations Board, which scheduled her case for adjudication at the end of that year.

Through mediation, Berry worked out a mutually satisfying deal with the Correctional Service. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Meet-up

Air force may fly zoo elephants to California

Elephants remain at the zoo as they wait for humans to make decisions. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A high-level meeting involving Royal Canadian Air Force officials is set for Thursday morning at the Toronto Zoo, where the discussion will be the potential use of a CC-177 Globemaster III jet freighter to transport three female elephants to a California sanctuary.

A source says the goal is to have the animals moved to the PAWS sanctuary before the hot weather sets in. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Spring sun can't counter wintery chill

A cyclist is silhouetted against the rising sun on Wednesday, the first spring morning of 2013, on the Humber River Pedestrian Bridge. Judging by the forecast for Thursday — scattered flurries for most of the day — spring is not in the air. The good news is, it's supposed to start warming up on the weekend. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No deal, no casino?

City hall. Proposed project left foundering after premier shuts down talk of special hosting fee for Toronto

Quoted

"To say that we're the same as Hamilton or Ottawa is ridiculous. I think we should (get a better deal), absolutely. You can't compare us to the second-largest city, which is Ottawa," with a fraction of the population."

Mayor Rob Ford

The long-shot bid for a downtown Toronto casino resort appears to be all but dead, say city councillors of various stripes.

The OLG is now left scrambling to save the proposal after it was told to formulate a new casino profit-sharing formula that would be equal for all. Toronto had been in line to receive extra fees for hosting a major downtown resort more complex than a standalone casino.

"If the patient was drowning before, the patient is basically in the bottom of the water now and weighted down," Coun. Michael Thompson, the economic development committee chair, said Thursday after Premier Kathleen Wynne decreed all cities will be subject to the same formula for hosting fees.

David Shiner, another undecided councillor, said: "I've always believed that Toronto should be getting $100-million-plus for permitting a casino in the city. If the revenues are small, the chances are slim that Toronto's ever going to support a casino."

Wynne met Paul Godfrey, chair of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp., behind closed doors amid concerns Toronto was being pledged an oversized slice of the pie if it hosts a big resort in the core.

"We agreed that we would review the policy of the formula at this point in time and get back to the premier in due course," Godfrey said.

"Nothing has been finalized," he added, noting he doesn't know if a standardized formula will mean more or less money for Toronto.

Mayor Rob Ford is hoping the review results in more than the $50 million to $100 million a year OLG had promised. Toronto should get a better deal than smaller cities that host standalone casinos, Ford suggested. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Skills training plan not enough, critics say

There were nearly six unemployed Canadians for every job vacancy in December, Statistics Canada said Wednesday.

Canadian businesses had 221,000 job openings at the end of 2012, one for every 5.7 unemployed workers, the federal agency said.

More than 1.2 million people were out of work.

The StatsCan release comes on the eve of a federal budget that Ottawa says will focus on skills training and better matching the labour market with business needs.

Quoted

"This is the time to invest. We should be having a 'go fast' approach on infrastructure investment to create jobs."

David Macdonald, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

But some critics say the figures show the problem isn't a skills mismatch, but rather a lack of job creation.

"I think it's clear there's no overall labour shortage," Erin Weir, an economist with the United Steelworkers Union, said in a telephone interview. "We have nearly six unemployed workers for every vacancy.

"Even if a (skills training) policy somehow succeeded in filling every current vacancy, more than a million Canadians would remain unemployed," Weir said.

While it's possible certain skills may be in short supply, Weir acknowledged, governments would be better off creating more jobs by investing in needed public services and infrastructure projects.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A typical rush hour at Union station is seen in this file shot. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Toronto not keen on transit taxes: Poll

Forum Research.
52% of respondents disapprove of board of trade's proposals

Toronto business and civic leaders anxious to stem a mounting congestion crisis in the region say the public has never been more ready to accept new taxes to fund transit.

But a poll from Forum Research shows more than half — 52 per cent — of Torontonians responding disapprove of the taxes and tolls proposed Monday by the Toronto Region Board of Trade to pay for a $50 billion regional transit expansion.

Less than one-third of the 1,045 poll respondents approved of the revenue tools. Nineteen per cent said they weren't sure.

People may need to better understand the benefits of expanding transit if the public is expected to accept more taxes, said Forum president Lorne Bozinoff.

"This is mainly a tax on drivers to pay for public transit without convincing drivers that this plan would get cars off the road," Bozinoff said.

While 36 per cent of transit users said they approved of the taxes, only 23 per cent of drivers felt the same.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transit tax acceptance

- **36%.** Transit users who approve of the Toronto Region Board of Trade's recommended tax tools that would be dedicated to transit.
- **17%.** Percentage of Rob Ford voters who approve.
- **15%.** Percentage of PC supporters who approve.
- **37%.** Percentage of Liberal supporters who approve.
- **32%.** Percentage of NDP supporters who approve.
- **41%.** Percentage of respondents aged 18 to 34 who disapprove of the transit taxes, compared with 59% aged 55 to 64 who disapprove.

Source: Forum Research

Just toolin' around

Boy, 12, takes mom's car for a joyride

York Regional Police say a mother ducked into a shop in a Markham strip mall Wednesday leaving her sons — aged 12 and three — in the car. She also left her keys behind. The 12-year-old took the car for a spin, circling the lot once, then pulling the car back into its parking spot. No one was injured and nothing was damaged.

CFRB/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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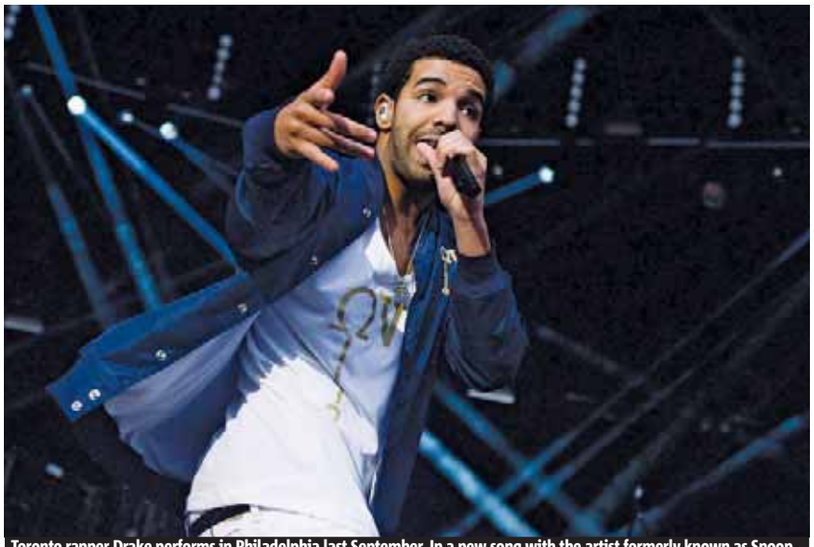
Drake's new song echoes tragedy of Danzig shooting



Toronto rapper Drake performs in Philadelphia last September. In a new song with the artist formerly known as Snoop Dogg, he raps about the Danzig Street shooting at a block party last summer. CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No Guns Allowed. T.O.-born rapper lends voice to Snoop Lion track

Last summer, when the Danzig shootings killed two innocent bystanders and injured 23 others, politicians, police and the bereaved called for an end to the violence, guns and heartbreak.

"I beg you, put the guns down," one speaker pleaded at the funeral of 14-year-old Shyanne Charles, one of the Danzig victims.

Now, Toronto-born Drake is adding his voice by rapping about the Danzig shootings on Snoop Lion's newly released track No Guns Allowed.

In the song, Drake raps about the "summer day that went horribly wrong."

"News from back home/this when it hurts to be gone/two more young names to be carved out of stone."

That summer day — July 16 — was the day a party on Danzig Street ended in the worst mass shooting in Toronto's history. The two young names were Shyanne Charles, 14 and Joshua Yasay, 23.

Yasay was the youngest of three children and an honours graduate of York University's criminology program. He was a basketball fan, worked with disadvantaged youth in Scarborough and had been determined to become a police officer. He had recently opened a barbershop. Charles was the oldest of four children. She loved to dance, play basketball and shop with her girlfriends.

"Let it be that she dies for a cause," her grandfather Tyrone Charles said after her death. "Let this stop here."

The day after the shooting, Drake tweeted his condolences to the families of Yasay and Charles and said: "Senseless violence in Toronto has to stop."

On the track, he raps: "Bullets do not choose a victim/It is the shooter that picks 'em."

No Guns Allowed is from Snoop Lion's well publicized foray into reggae music, the subject of a documentary and soon to be released album called Reincarnated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lyrics

"Told you no guns and you didn't listen/Life is so heavy with that on your soul/Dedicate this to Shyanne and Josh/And pour something out for the lives that they stole." Drake

Youth worker

'It's just a song'

Jam Johnson, who works with young people in Toronto's troubled neighbourhoods as co-founder of the Neighbourhood Basketball Association, says the song won't "really have any effect."

"It's just a song. What's going to have an effect is people getting out there and really doing what they have to do. Everybody is just talking. Everybody waits until people get shot and killed and then everybody runs begging for money," he says.

"I'm sick of all the shootings. You know how much calls I got today from mothers whose sons got shot last night and want to talk to me? It's just ridiculous, it's absolutely sickening."

Cops nab five men in brazen Burlington bank bust

An attempted bank heist in southern Ontario was "unrivalled" in its sophistication, police said Wednesday.

Five men face charges in connection with a Hollywood-style robbery that involved breaking through thick concrete walls and using high-tech equipment to bypass intricate security systems at a bank in Burlington, Ont.

While police are still calculating how much was seized, they allege the men were trying to make off with at least $300,000 in cash and several thousand more in jewelry.

Officers were dispatched to a Toronto Dominion-Canada Trust financial institution around 1 a.m. Monday after an alarm went off.

They arrived to find the bank's exterior doors secure, but after searching the area with the help of a canine team, five men were found hiding in a nearby field.

Police say it appears the suspects broke into an abandoned second-storey office space above the bank, where they stayed for several days.

During that time, police say heavy-duty tools were used to break through the concrete floor of the office into the ceiling of the bank.

John Hickey, 44, of Caledon, Ont., Aldo Simoni, 31, of Toronto, and Alexander Papic, 48, Mentor Vishjay, 36, and Besim Rugova, 32, all of no fixed address, are all facing charges of break, enter and commit, and possession of break-in instruments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The hole in the floor cut through thick concrete by thieves to bypass the security systems at a Burlington TD Bank. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Tools

After finding the five men, police say they also found three vehicles that contained equipment believed to have been used in the break-in. Those tools included an acetylene oxygen tank, concrete cutting saws, rappelling equipment, ladders and lighting equipment.

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A confident reply by MP Justin Trudeau on Tuesday night CONTRIBUTED/IMGUR.COM; INSET: FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Just watch me' defeat Harper: Justin Trudeau

Scribbled reply. Liberal leadership contender echoes father's words

Forty-two years after it was first uttered — in very different circumstances — the Trudeau challenge is back.

"Just watch me," Justin Trudeau scribbled in a note on Tuesday night, when a fellow passenger on his flight asked whether the Liberal leadership contender could defeat Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

"Justin, can you really beat Harper?" Michael Kydd wrote on a note he passed to Trudeau. "Wishing you all the best!"

Trudeau replied by invoking his father's famous phrase during the FLQ crisis of 1970, when a band of Quebec separatists kidnapped a British diplomat and a cabinet minister.

Then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau was asked by a reporter how far he would go in the suspension of civil liberties during the crisis.

"Well, just watch me," he said at the time.

It turns out Kydd will be "just watching" Trudeau, however. Kydd acknowledged he's a lifelong Conservative.

Harper's communications director, Andrew MacDougall, was having some fun, too, on Wednesday. MacDougall put out his own scribbled note. A photo was posted on Twitter with a question: "Hey Andrew, what do you think about Justin Trudeau's 'just watch me' quote? Best, Dom."

The reply: "Hey Dom: Fuddle Duddle! Andrew."

("Fuddle duddle" was what Pierre Trudeau claimed he said during a stormy session in the Commons. Others said it was a well-known obscenity.) TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Commons speaker forced to break up name-calling over 'ugly' politics

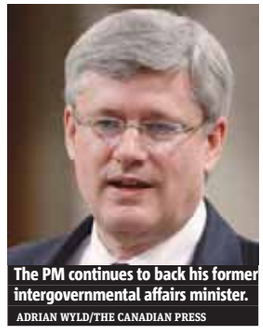
Things certainly got a bit ugly in the House of Commons.

With Opposition accusations flying over the resignation last week of Labrador MP Peter Penashue, Prime Minister Stephen Harper again heaped praise on his former intergovernmental affairs minister.

Harper told the Commons he expected the Conservatives would run a clean campaign in a byelection in which Penashue has pledged to run.

But he also suggested the Liberals were already running a "negative, ugly campaign" against Penashue.

That prompted an exchange with interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae, with the Commons speaker forced to break up the verbal melee.



The PM continues to back his former intergovernmental affairs minister. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rae told the House the Conservatives had only to look in the mirror if they wanted to see ugly.

Penashue resigned his cabinet post and his seat in the Commons last week after Elections Canada found his election campaign had accepted 28 ineligible donations.

He has since pledged to run in a byelection and is being supported by the prime minister, even though Elections Canada is continuing to investigate.

The opposition parties have accused Harper of acting immorally by allowing Penashue to run in a byelection after being caught "buying" his last election.

Penashue is a former Innu leader who defeated a Liberal incumbent by just 79 votes in the 2011 election.

The prime minister has said Penashue has accomplished much for his constituents and should be allowed to face voters based on his track record. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal appeal

Court told ban on assisted suicide akin to 'torture'

Forcing patients to suffer agonizing deaths without the power to ask a doctor to end their lives is like "torture," a lawyer told the B.C. Court of Appeal Wednesday as he argued for assisted suicide.

Joseph Arvay said the ban leads patients to end their lives early because they know they won't receive help if they become debilitated later.

The appeal stems from a decision last year that found the federal law banning assisted suicide unconstitutional. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Costly cleanup

Nuclear waste spikes deficit by $2.4 billion

A sudden $2.4-billion revision to Canada's nuclear liabilities has crept up on Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and substantially deepened the deficit for the current fiscal year.

Analysts say there is probably enough wiggle room this year to absorb the hike without throwing longer-term deficit reduction plans off course.

Atomic Energy of Canada quietly announced Tuesday night that the expected long-term cost for disposing of nuclear waste has risen. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Via Rail

Train jumps tracks, causing delays

Via Rail says passenger train service was interrupted on its busy route between Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto after a Canadian Pacific freight train derailed southwest of Ottawa.

Via said it used buses to transport passengers for at least part of their trip.

A total of five CP freight cars derailed Wednesday afternoon at Smiths Falls. No injuries were reported.

The Transportation Safety Board said one car was carrying hazardous goods but there had been no leak and no danger to the public. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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All giant squid likely belong to one species: Study

Supersized sea beasts. Tentacled behemoths are among largest invertebrates on Earth, reaching up to 18 metres in length

A giant squid attacks bait. TSUNEMI KUBODERA OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE MUSEUM OF JAPAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

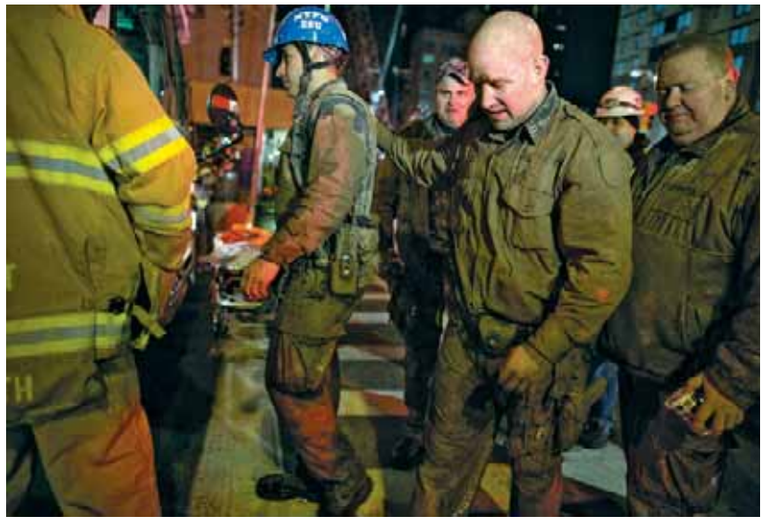
They're the stuff of myth and B-grade horror movies, giant tentacled sea monsters roaming the deep in search of prey.

Giant squid have turned up on East Coast shores for hundreds of years, and now new research is shining some light on the sea monsters.

An international team headed by Danish researchers tested DNA samples from 43 giant squid from around the world — including a specimen from Newfoundland — and were stunned to find that there is likely just a single species of the massive cephalopod.

The genetic diversity among the samples was lower than almost any species ever reported, said Tom Gilbert, a researcher from the Natural History Museum of Denmark at the University of Copenhagen.

"That lack of diversity and no population structure is just crazy. We just cannot explain it easily once you start thinking that this is an animal that lives everywhere," Gilbert said in an email interview. The study, published Wednesday, left researchers with several theories, including that they may have come close to extinction and rebounded. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Trapped worker rescued in New York City

Officers of the New York City police Emergency Services Unit, covered in mud and dirt, walk to a waiting bus to warm up after securing the rescue of a construction worker trapped underground at an MTA subway construction project in New York early Wednesday. CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona

American state debates transgender washroom use

Lawmakers in Arizona have jumped into the national debate over the rights of transgender people with a bill that would make it illegal for people to use public restrooms not associated with their birth gender. Advocates say the measure would be the toughest standard in the U.S. for transgender people and bathroom use, requiring residents to use the restroom of the sex on their birth certificate. One TV station dubbed it "Show Me Your Papers Before You Go Potty" bill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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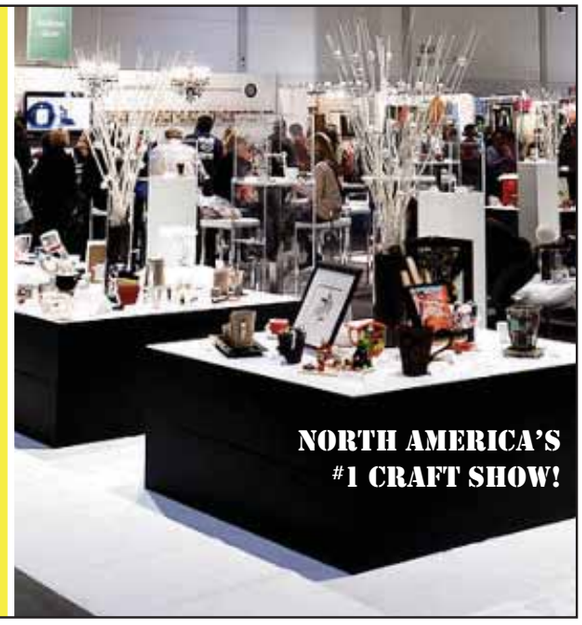

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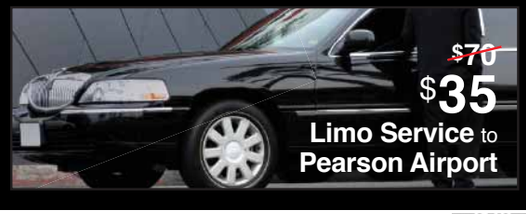

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Pregnancy. DNA from three researched to prevent passing on genetic diseases

Britain's fertility regulator says it has found broad public support for in vitro fertilization techniques that allow babies to be created with DNA from three people for couples at risk of passing on potentially fatal genetic diseases.

It also found there was no evidence to suggest the techniques were unsafe, but said further research was still necessary.

Critics, however, slammed the decision as a breach of ethics, saying there were already safe methods like egg donation to allow people to have children without mitochondria defects.

Britain's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority began a public discussion of the topic at the government's request last year.

"Although some people have concerns about the safety of these techniques, we found that they trust the scientific experts and the regulator to know when it is appropriate to make them available to patients," Lisa Jardine, chair of the group, said in a statement Wednesday.

British law forbids altering a human egg or an embryo before transferring it into a woman, so such treatments are currently only allowed for research. Similar research is going on in the U.S.

About one in 200 children every year in Britain is born with a mitochondrial disorder. Mistakes in the mitochondria's genetic code can result in serious diseases.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Genetic-disease research

"The sole aim (is) preventing a potentially fatal condition from being passed down to the next generation."

Marita Polschmidt, director of research at the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign

All smiles with Baby on Board

The Duchess of Cambridge smiles at the Queen after she receives a "Baby on Board" badge. It's available to pregnant passengers on London's Tube to let others know they may need a seat. The Royals were celebrating the underground's 150th anniversary. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMA. Ontario doctors want crackdown on antibiotic use in farming

The Ontario Medical Association wants the federal and provincial governments to crack down on antibiotic use in farming.

The organization is issuing a call to arms on the problem of antibiotic resistance, warning the world is in danger of losing these drugs because of misuse.

A policy paper drafted by the OMA says Ontario should ban the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in food-animal production.

Farmers currently feed antibiotics to healthy animals both to prevent them from becoming ill and to accelerate growth.

Many more tonnes of the drugs are used in agricultural operations than in human medicine and experts say the practice is fuelling development of resistance.

OMA president Dr. Doug Weir says Canada has been slower off the mark to act to protect antibiotics than countries in Europe and the United States. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has barred the disease-prevention use of a class of antibiotics called cephalosporins in animal production, but the practice is not banned in Canada.

The OMA says governments should close loopholes that allow farmers to import the drugs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'A serious problem'

OMA president Dr. Doug Weir says Canadians do not appear to understand that if antibiotic use isn't curbed, the world faces a future in which some infections will be incurable.

- The OMA wants access to antibiotics for agricultural operations to be limited to cases where veterinarians write prescriptions. Currently farmers use the drugs without surveillance.

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Networks crash at S. Korean banks, media companies

Cyberattack. North Korea is suspected of being behind the attack that paralyzed ATMs across South Korea

An employee works near a computer with an error message at the Seoul newsroom of all-news cable channel YTN as the South Korean broadcaster's computer network was paralyzed on Wednesday. Computer networks at major South Korean banks and top TV broadcasters crashed en masse. YONHAP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cyberattack caused computer networks at major South Korean banks and top TV broadcasters to crash simultaneously Wednesday, paralyzing bank machines across the country and prompting speculation of North Korean involvement.

Screens went blank at 2 p.m., the state-run Korea Information Security Agency said, and more than seven hours later some systems were still down.

Police and South Korean officials couldn't immediately determine responsibility and North Korea's state media made no immediate comments on the shutdown. But some experts suspected a cyberattack orchestrated by Pyongyang. The rivals have exchanged threats amid joint U.S.-South Korean military drills and in the wake of UN sanctions meant to punish North Korea over its nuclear test last month.

The network paralysis took place just days after North Korea accused South Korea and the U.S. of staging a cyberattack that shut down its websites for two days last week. Loxley Pacific, the Thailand-based Internet service provider, confirmed the North Korean outage but did not say what caused it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011 massacre

Norway sets $19M to fight terror

The Norwegian government has pledged an extra 109 million kroner ($19.4 million) this year to improve terror preparedness following the July 22, 2011, massacre when a right-wing extremist killed 77 people in a bomb attack and shooting rampage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potential arms race

N. Korean bank sanctions sought

A senior Republican lawmaker pushing for tougher U.S. banking sanctions on North Korea says the isolated nation's development of a nuclear weapon could trigger an atomic arms race in East Asia. House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Ed Royce said Wednesday that South Korea, Japan and Taiwan might seek nuclear weapons if Pyongyang miniaturizes a nuclear warhead it can mount on a missile. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ethan Yellowbird

Boy's teen killers say they're sorry

Three teens convicted in the shooting death of a five-year-old Alberta boy have apologized. Each of the youths, who can't be identified, told Ethan Yellowbird's family they were sorry for taking the young boy's life.

The trio came up with a plan to shoot at the house on the Samson Cree reserve in July 2011, and a bullet went through a wall and struck Ethan in the head as he was sleeping in his bed.

The teens have pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

The Crown has asked that all three serve the maximum youth sentence — two years in custody followed by one year of supervision. Defence lawyers are seeking sentences from as little as six months in open custody to as much as one year behind bars for their clients. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teen football players

Girl, 13, taunted in sexual-assault case

Two members of the Torrington, Conn. High School football team have been charged with sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl, who has been taunted on social media sites in recent weeks by dozens of classmates upset at the allegations.

The Register Citizen reports the two 18-year-old football players, Edgar Gonzalez and Joan Toribio, have been charged with felony second-degree sexual assault and other crimes in an investigation that began last month. Both have pleaded not guilty.

Details of the allegations are sealed from public view.

The newspaper reports social media posts by classmates taunting the accuser have included vulgar language and blamed her for ruining the players' lives. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Philip Lane Jr., of the American Yankton Sioux Nation, said Wednesday native groups south of the border will stand with their Canadian cousins in their protest of Northern Gateway and Keystone XL pipelines. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'We're going to stop these pipelines'

First Nations. Aboriginal groups say stakes are so high, they'll keep fighting Keystone XL and Northern Gateway

An alliance of First Nations leaders is preparing to fight proposed new pipelines in the courts and through unspecified direct action.

Native leaders from Canada and the United States were on Parliament Hill Wednesday to underline opposition to both the Northern Gateway and Keystone XL pipelines.

The first would tie the Alberta oilsands to the West Coast, while the second would send bitumen to refineries on the American Gulf Coast.

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver said the federal government is consulting with First Nations and is ready to hear their concerns.

"We're making every effort to respond to the concerns we have heard on the West Coast," he said after a caucus meeting.

"They want to do the best for their communities and we want to do the best for their communities as well. So I remain very hopeful."

Some of the chiefs brushed off the federal government's appointment this week of a special envoy to look at tensions between natives and the energy industry.

Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation said natives are determined to block the pipelines.

"It's going to be a long, hot summer," he said at a news conference.

Phil Lane Jr. of the American Yankton Sioux said native groups south of the border will stand with their Canadian cousins.

"We're going to stop these pipelines one way or another," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Targeted? Shooter kills head of Colorado prisons

Colorado's top state prison official was shot and killed when he answered the front door of his house, setting off a hunt for the shooter and raising questions about whether the attack had anything to do with his job.

Tom Clements, 58, was shot around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in Monument, north of Colorado Springs, and a witness reported a person driving away in a dark-coloured "boxy" car that had its engine running at the time of the shooting, authorities said.

Investigators were exploring all possibilities, including that the shooting could have been related to Clements' job as executive director of the Colorado Department of Corrections.

While the motive of the killing wasn't immediately clear, similar attacks on officials have been on the rise in the U.S., said Glenn McGovern, a California investigator who tracks such incidents worldwide.

The attacks are often motivated by revenge, said McGovern, who has documented more than 133 attacks since 1950. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Regime, rebels call for probe of alleged chemical attack

Syrian civil war. Both sides blame each other for the incident without offering clear proof

Syria's government and rebels on Wednesday both demanded an international investigation into an alleged chemical-weapons attack, as the country's feared arsenal became the latest propaganda tool in the two-year-old civil war.

President Barack Obama said the United States is investigating whether chemical weapons have been deployed in Syria, but noted that he is "deeply skeptical" of claims by President Bashar Assad's regime that rebel forces were behind such an attack.

Syrian girls paint their faces with colours of the Syrian revolutionary flag during a festival in Aleppo, Syria, Wednesday. AMC/ALEPPO MEDIA CENTRE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Once we establish the facts, I have made clear that the use of chemical weapons is a game changer," Obama said in a news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

The use of chemical weapons by either side is a nightmare scenario. Along with its warnings about Assad, the West is just as concerned that rebel forces, including some linked to al-Qaida, could get their hands on Syria's chemical-weapons supplies.

Despite the importance, any clear confirmation of the nature of the attack that took place Tuesday in the northern village of Khan al-Assal, killing at least 31 people, is unlikely. Syria's government seals off areas it controls to journalists and outside observers.

If confirmed, it would be the first time a chemical weapon has been used in Syria's war that has already killed an estimated 70,000 people.

Syria's UN Ambassador Bashar Jaafari called the attack "very serious and alarming and unacceptable and unethical." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tensions with Iran. Obama pledges support for Israel

Eager to reassure an anxious ally, U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday promised to work closely with Israel and do whatever is necessary to keep Iran from obtaining nuclear arms, "the world's worst weapons."

Obama, meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his first visit to the Jewish state as president, said of Iran's nuclear ambitions: "We prefer to resolve this diplomatically and there is still time to do so." But he added that "all options are on the table" if diplomacy falls short.

Netanyahu, at Obama's side for a joint news conference, said that while he appreciated U.S. efforts to thwart Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons through diplomacy and sanctions, those tools "must be augmented by a clear and credible threat of military action."

Seeking to alter a perception among many Israelis that his government has been less supportive of Israel than previous U.S. administrations, Obama declared the U.S.-Israeli alliance "eternal." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu after a joint news conference in Jerusalem, Wednesday. CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt

Judges suggest dissolving Muslim Brotherhood

A panel of judges has recommended the dissolution of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group from which President Mohammed Morsi hails. The recommendation is significant given charges that the Brotherhood is the real power behind Morsi. The recommendation was made to a high administrative court expected to rule this month in a case over the Brotherhood's legitimacy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ban lifted

Jews of Egypt film to air in cinemas

The director of a documentary on Egypt's Jewish community says authorities have lifted a ban on showing the film in local cinemas. The Jews of Egypt follows the lives of the community in the 20th century. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Markham
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Pacific Mall, Unit D56 & D21

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Chartwell Shopping Centre
1885 Kennedy Rd
2667 Eglinton Ave E, Unit 1
4352 Kingston Rd, Unit 7B
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Toronto's Tamara Jemuovic has had some help from the mayor's office in her quest to win the Miss World Canada pageant on May 9. CONTRIBUTED

Pageant hopeful helped by 'momager' and Ford brothers

Miss World Canada.
Contestant says judges looking for more than just a pretty face

PHOEBE HO
toronto@metronews.ca

Armed with experience, poise and a vote of confidence from Mayor Rob Ford, a Toronto beauty queen is now one step closer to achieving her dreams.

Leading in the online polls in the Miss World Canada pageant so far, 19-year-old Tamara Jemuovic is one of 40 finalists heading to Vancouver for the final competition on May 9. It's still early in the game, but she has hit the ground running.

She says it's all thanks to the support she has behind her. Besides all the loving help from her mom, whom she refers to as her "momager," getting a helping hand from Ford has also given her a little boost. Since she met the mayor at an event last month, Jemuovic says, Ford has been helping her in the competition, getting her the exposure and financial sponsorships she needs.

"I was with them (Ford brothers) on the radio, 'cause they're all helping me out with the campaign," she says about her interview earlier this month on the Ford brothers' weekly talk show. "It makes me feel so special."

But the young Miss World Canada hopeful isn't just relying on others, already having as she does six years of pageant experience under her belt.

Between studying, attending public events and keeping up with an intense workout schedule, Jemuovic, who's in her second year at the University of Toronto studying global inequalities and environmental injustice, hardly has time for anything else. But the contestant is willing to make sacrifices.

Quoted

"They're not looking for a wind-up Barbie doll."

Tamara Jemuovic, on what it takes to win pageants

Want to vote for her?

If Jemuovic wins the upcoming pageant, she'll head to Indonesia in September to compete internationally.

- You can vote for her at missworldcanada.com/Contestants-2013.aspx
- Or "Like" her Facebook page for the social media award: facebook.com/TamaraJemuovicforMWC2013.

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CANADA: ONE-WAY

Sample prices from Toronto, for travel as indicated below.

MONTREAL	QUEBEC CITY	HALIFAX	ST. JOHN'S, NL
APRIL 11, 2013 – JUNE 27, 2013	APRIL 4, 2013 – JUNE 27, 2013	APRIL 4, 2013 – JUNE 27, 2013	APRIL 4, 2013 – JUNE 27, 2013
$129	$146	$191	$237

USA: ONE-WAY

Sample prices from Toronto, for travel as indicated below.

NEW YORK NEWARK	FORT LAUDERDALE	LAS VEGAS	LOS ANGELES
MARCH 21, 2013 – JUNE 27, 2013	MARCH 21, 2013 – JUNE 27, 2013	MARCH 21, 2013 – JUNE 27, 2013	MARCH 21, 2013 – JUNE 27, 2013
$170	$201	$253	$316

INTERNATIONAL: ROUND-TRIP

Sample prices from Toronto. Departure dates as indicated below.

PARIS	BRUSSELS	LONDON HEATHROW	SÃO PAULO	BEIJING	SHANGHAI	HONG KONG	SYDNEY, AU
MARCH 26, 2013 – MAY 6, 2013	MARCH 26, 2013 – MAY 6, 2013	MARCH 26, 2013 – MAY 26, 2013	MARCH 21, 2013 – JUNE 20, 2013	APRIL 19, 2013 – JUNE 11, 2013	APRIL 19, 2013 – JUNE 11, 2013	MARCH 21, 2013 – JUNE 4, 2013	MARCH 21, 2013 – JUNE 20, 2013
$892	$930	$967	$1092	$1348	$1378	$1423	$1818

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Sappy tale

Thieves illegally tapping maple trees

Thieves are illegally tapping maple trees on private property in Maine and stealing sap that is used to make maple syrup.

Forest Ranger Jeff Currier says the Maine Forest Service has gotten a dozen complaints from landowners finding taps in their trees with buckets or jugs underneath to collect the sap.

Currier says he first started getting sap theft reports about five years ago, but says the number of complaints is up this year. No arrests have been made, but the culprits could face theft, malicious mischief and trespassing charges.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says a gallon of Maine syrup has sold for about $50 US on average at retail in recent years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A drop of fresh sap falls from a tap in a maple tree in Bowdoin, Maine.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Live deer in trunk of car gives officer big surprise

Police investigating. Owner of car says he thought he had killed the deer, but it was probably just stunned

Talk about junk in the trunk.

A public-safety officer checking a suspicious car parked behind a southwestern Michigan motel early Tuesday was more than a little surprised when a deer climbed out of the trunk, stumbled onto the road and bolted into nearby woods.

TV stations WWMT, WZZM and WOOD report that the driver told Kalamazoo officer David Miller he hit the deer on the road — thought he had killed it — and was taking it home for his family to eat.

Squad-car dashboard-camera footage shows Miller opening the trunk, then quickly trying to close it as he spots the deer. The animal escapes from the trunk, rear first, stumbles and rolls, then dashes off.

Lt. Stacey Geik says the collision probably just stunned the deer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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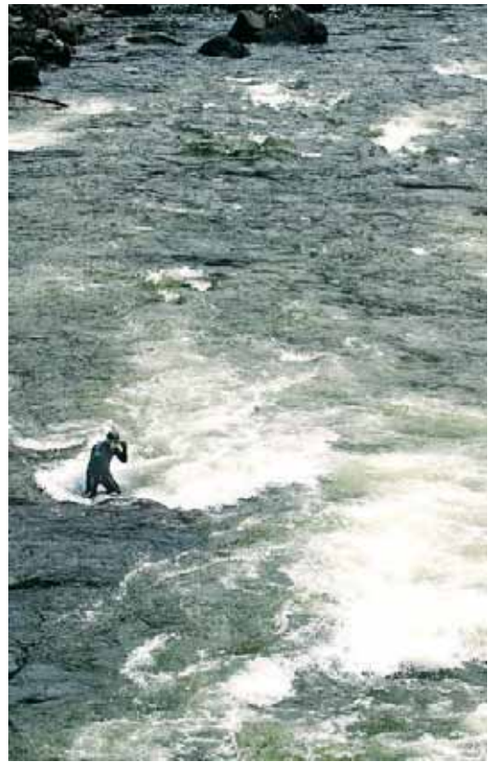

Not for the faint of heart

Russ Ricketts of Leavenworth, Wash., stands on a rock March 14 in the Wenatchee River in Tumwater Canyon to get a better view of the rapids ahead. He'll often scout rapids, looking for entrapments and eddies, before entering a river. To Ricketts and Matt Collins, also of Leavenworth, North Central Washington is a snorkelling mecca. The two men do this all year.

MIKE BONNICKSEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Witness draws federal parties into Quebec corruption inquiry

No followup. Lawyer's questioning about donation of fake-billing proceeds to political parties leads briefly to federal level

Quebec's corruption inquiry has heard that illegal political financing happened beyond the world of provincial politics and also permeated the federal level.

The issue, briefly raised Wednesday at the inquiry, was vaguely addressed and immediately dropped.

An engineering executive was describing how he used fake-billing schemes to funnel cash from his company to parties as illegal provincial contributions.

Then, when asked whether he used that practice to contribute to federal parties, Rosaire Sauriol, the vice-president of Dessau Inc., responded, "Yes."

And that was it. There were no more details about which parties might have received the cash, how much they received, and when they received it.

The mandate of Quebec's corruption inquiry does not extend to the federal level — so any questions about politics beyond the province are deemed out-of-bounds.

But Sauriol's answer is enough to raise questions about whether federal parties were financed with illegal cash and, if so, which ones. There have been limits since 2004 on corporate donations to federal parties; corporate donations were banned entirely in 2006.

The events that Sauriol has been describing in his testimony occurred as late as 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rosaire Sauriol, vice-president at Dessau, is seen in a screengrab from a video feed as he testifies on Wednesday in Montreal at the Charbonneau inquiry looking into corruption in the Quebec construction industry.

CHARBONNEAU COMMISSION/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Widening scope

More than provincial

Wednesday's brief exchange was a rare example of the inquiry tiptoeing, however gingerly, beyond the confines of Quebec provincial politics.

The inquiry has also twice raised the name of Sen. Leo Housakos — although he has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

At one point this week, an inquiry lawyer suddenly began asking the head of another engineering firm, BPR, about the senator's work and the company and his appointment to the upper chamber of the Parliament of Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal Budget coverage that adds up.

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Turn to CBC News for **LIVE** coverage of the 2013 Federal Budget with **Evan Solomon** and **Amanda Lang** on CBC-TV and CBC News Network, **Alison Smith** on CBC Radio and live streaming on CBCNews.ca

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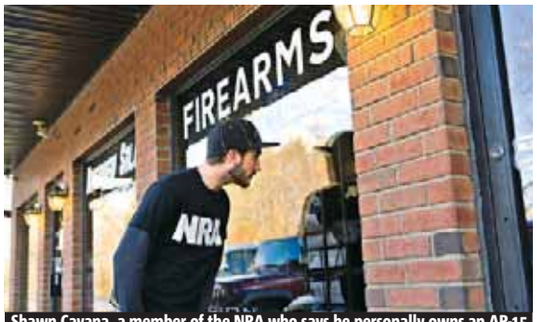

Shawn Cavana, a member of the NRA who says he personally owns an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, looks into the Riverview Gun Sales shop while gun shopping with friends in East Windsor, Conn. JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

State's offer of aid to gun maker pulled 4 days after shooting

Newtown, Conn.
School killings appear to be a secondary factor in ending deal

Just days before 20 children and six educators were killed at a Connecticut school in December, state development officials offered the maker of the rifle used in the massacre a $1-million loan to bring new jobs to the state.

The offer, capping six months of negotiations between the Department of Economic and Community Development and Freedom Group, was dropped after private-equity firm Cerberus Capital Management announced it would sell Freedom Group, manufacturer of the Bushmaster AR-15.

The deal was ended four days after the killings, according to a letter released in response to an open-records request.

The Hartford Courant first reported the deal.

Deputy agency commissioner Ronald Angelo said Wednesday that Cerberus' announcement made the deal untenable. The announced sale led to several "cordial, amicable" phone conversations between the state and the company about the deal no longer being workable. He said the killings also were a factor.

"It would be naive to think that that would not weigh on people's minds," he said, referring to the shooting deaths.

Days after the killings, investors started to avoid some of the nation's largest gun makers. Cerberus Capital Management announced it would sell the maker of the rifle used in the massacre, which it called a "watershed event." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The deal

In a Dec. 6 letter — eight days before the shootings at Sandy Hook — the administration of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy offered a $1-million loan at two per cent interest for 10 years to encourage gun maker Freedom Group to move its corporate headquarters to Stamford from North Carolina. The state would forgive $550,000 in exchange for the creation of 25 jobs.

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Wrongfully accused? N.Y. prosecutors ask judge to free convicted killer

A man put behind bars for the 1990 killing of a Brooklyn rabbi was on the verge of freedom Wednesday after prosecutors told a judge they support tossing out his conviction.

David Ranta was to appear Thursday in state court, where a judge will rule on a defence motion to vacate his second-degree murder conviction.

Based on its own re-investigation of the case, the Brooklyn District Attorney's office filed papers on Wednesday supporting the motion. They also told the judge they want the murder indictment dismissed, since they "no longer have sufficient evidence to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt."

If the judge agrees, the 58-year-old Ranta could walk out the courtroom Thursday afternoon as a free man.

"I'd lie there in the cell at night and I think: I'm the only one in the world who knows I'm innocent," Ranta told the Times from a Buffalo prison. "I came in here as a 30-something with kids, a mother who was alive. This case killed my whole life."

The case dates to Feb. 8, 1990, when Rabbi Chaskel Werzberger, a leader of the tight-knit Satmar Hasidic community, was shot in the head by a man fleeing a botched robbery. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Catching a kingpin

Jamaican residents demand justice for deadly 2010 raid

Residents of a battle-scarred slum once controlled by Jamaica's biggest underworld boss rallied Wednesday to demand accountability and justice for a deadly 2010 raid into their community that failed to catch him.

Roughly 80 demonstrators marched from a central square to Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller's offices. Most were from Tivoli Gardens, a public-housing complex in West Kingston once run by drug kingpin Christopher "Dudus" Coke, where at least 73 civilians were killed when security forces conducted an offensive during a state of emergency.

Basic details of the raid remain murky, though it was one of the bloodiest episodes in Jamaica's recent history and there have been numerous claims of unlawful killings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People pass by a closed branch of Laiki Bank in Nicosia, Wednesday. The decisive rejection Tuesday of a plan to take a slice of all deposits above 20,000 euros (about $26,500) has left Cyprus's bailout in question.

PETROS KARADJIAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cypriots scramble to find Plan B

Dire straits. Rejection of a plan to raid people's bank deposits has left the country's bailout plan in doubt

Grim scenario

- Without the funds, Cyprus' banks could collapse, the government would struggle to pay its bills and the country could become the first to be forced out of the European currency.

Banks in Cyprus will not open before Tuesday at the earliest as government officials try to find a new plan to stave off financial ruin, the central bank's spokesperson said.

The cash-strapped lenders have been closed since Saturday, when Cyprus said it would raid bank deposits to help fund its bailout package, to avoid a bank run.

Cypriot officials are looking for alternative ways to scrounge up the 5.8 billion euros ($7.51 billion US) that the country's euro area partners and the IMF expect in order to loan another 10 billion euros.

By Wednesday night, there were still no details on what a Plan B might entail. Finance Minister Michalis Sarris was in Moscow seeking help from Russia, including an extension on a loan extended in 2011.

Representatives of Cyprus' potential international lenders — the IMF, European Central Bank and European Commission, known as the troika — met with the country's president and other top officials to discuss the next steps.

An official said the troika was pressing for the country's two top lenders, Laiki and the Bank of Cyprus, to be shut down definitively. The official said there was no Plan B yet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gulf oil spill. Rig's owner prepares to field witnesses

Plaintiffs' attorneys have rested their case at a trial over the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion and massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

A U.S. federal judge heard testimony by more than a dozen witnesses called by the Justice Department and private attorneys for Gulf Coast residents and businesses.

The plaintiffs' lawyers rested Wednesday after their last witness, a former employee of cement contractor Halliburton, finished testifying.

The trial continues with more testimony by witnesses for rig owner Transocean Ltd. BP and Halliburton also will call their own witnesses.

Barring a settlement, the judge could decide how much more money the companies owe for their roles in the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yahoo buys another small startup to bring 5 ex-employees back to the fold

Yahoo has bought Silicon Valley startup Jybe so it can bring back five of its former engineers to help the Internet company build better mobile applications.

The deal announced Wednesday marks Yahoo's fourth acquisition of a small startup during the past five months. In each instance, Yahoo been more interested in obtaining the startups' brainpower than the services that they provided.

Jybe's mobile service that gathered people's recommendations about food and entertainment is closing down so its five employees can focus on other projects at Yahoo Inc. All five Jybe workers were formerly employed at Yahoo before the company hired former Google Inc. executive Marissa Mayer as its CEO eight months ago.

The recent acquisitions are part of Mayer's effort to bring in more expertise in designing mobile applications

After focusing on nothing but small acquisitions under Mayer's command, Yahoo may be working on something bigger. Earlier this week,

The Wall Street Journal reported that Yahoo is in preliminary discussion to buy a controlling stake in online video site Dailymotion from France Telecom SA.

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Seeking high school students with ADHD to participate in research

Who: Teens ages 14 to 16 with a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

What: Reading, listening, and memory tasks (about 5-6 hours) on a weekday or weekend

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BlackBerry co-founders. $100M fund established for quantum computing

BlackBerry co-founders Mike Lazaridis and Doug Fregin have established a $100-million fund to commercialize quantum computing, an emerging field they say could revolutionize information technology.

They say the Waterloo region could be a focal point for new jobs and new industries, much as California's Silicon Valley became a hub for advances in conventional computing.

Lazaridis and Fregin collaborated to found the company formerly known as Research In Motion in 1984, which became Canada's leading high technology company through its pioneering efforts in smartphones.

Fregin, 53, retired from RIM in 2007. Lazaridis is the more prominent of the two, having served as co-chairman and co-CEO until early last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Social media giants ignoring Canadian privacy laws: Report

Personal data. Sites are supposed to let users know what information is being collected about them — but they rarely do, a researcher says

LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

Many of the most prominent social media companies are failing to comply with Canadian privacy laws, says a new report.

The study, authored by University of Victoria researcher Chris Parsons, found sites like Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr are "lacking at best, and entirely negligent at worst," when it comes to things like letting users know what kind of information is collected about them.

A University of Victoria researcher notes that while some social-media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, do provide automated ways for users to access their personal data, they do not let users see all of that information. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Schedule 1 of Canada's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) requires social networking sites, upon request, to hand over information about "the existence, use and disclosure of ... personal information."

However, when Parsons and his colleague filed such requests, only six of the 18 companies queried even responded, and those that did either refused to provide any information or offered incomplete data.

While Google, Facebook and Twitter do provide automated methods for users to access their information, Parsons says users are still unable to get all of their personal information. In particular, he and his colleagues found they weren't given the "metadata" that companies attached to their social media posts.

"We argue that metadata is content," he said. "And when we understand the metadata, we can understand how corporations and law enforcement use that data."

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Flaherty shouldn't have messed with mortgage rates, Tory minister says

Cabinet scuffle. Bernier breaks ranks over finance minister's intervention

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty puts on his annual pre-budget shoes at the Roots Leather Factory in Toronto on Wednesday. A cabinet colleague has criticized Flaherty's intervention in the mortgage market. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not everyone in the Conservative cabinet is backing Jim Flaherty's latest intervention in the mortgage market.

Small Business Minister Maxime Bernier says he believes the finance minister overstepped his bounds by having his office phone Manulife Financial and ask they withdraw their discount on five-year mortgages to 2.89 per cent from 3.09.

Bernier told reporters Wednesday he would not have done it. "Me, personally, I would not dictate to businesses what prices to decide," he said. "It's the market. It's supply and demand that decides the prices. It is the case for interest rates, it is the case for other products too."

In the House of Commons, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair asked which minister — Bernier or Flaherty — speaks for the government. "Which minister has the prime minister's confidence, the minister of small business or the minister of finance?"

Prime Minister Stephen Harper did not respond directly but did appear to echo Flaherty's justification for intervening. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dissension in the ranks

"Me, personally, I would not dictate to businesses what prices to decide."

Small Business Minister Maxime Bernier

Points and perks

Starbucks expands loyalty program

Starbucks is offering a novel perk to get more people to sign up for its loyalty program: letting members earn points when they buy bags of its coffee at supermarkets. The company said at its annual meeting Wednesday that the new perk will roll out in May.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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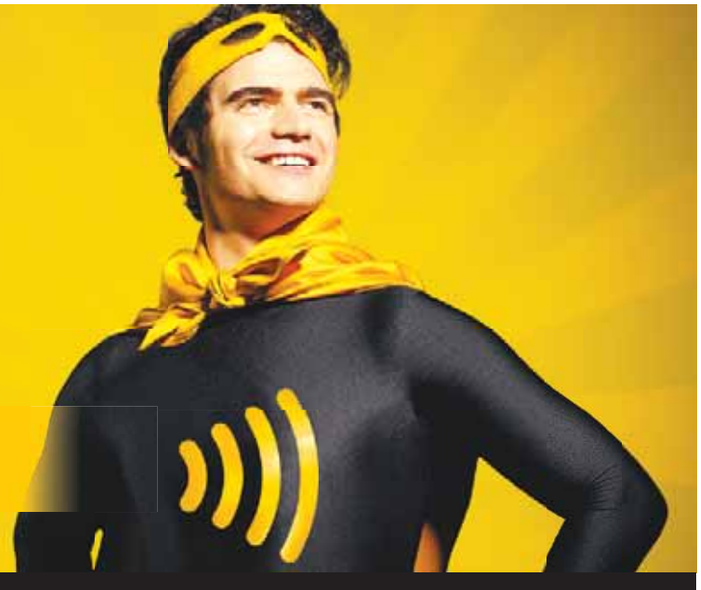

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IT'S PRIME TIME FOR TV

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Sure, people are killing each other a lot these days, the economy always seems on the verge of collapsing, and the shrinking of chocolate bars continues unabated.

But you can't get me down, because this is the Golden Age of Television.

No other medium can compare. The Beatles came out with every style of pop music in the 60s, and musicians have been trying to catch up, copy or pay tribute ever since.

Movies peaked in the 1970s, when you could go watch The Godfather without being bombarded by tie-ins like a McBrando Triple Burger Combo complete with toy (Bullet-Riddled Sonny).

And the Internet, despite containing the total sum of human knowledge, hasn't figured out yet how to be more than society's porn stash.

But, ahh, television. Television is in its sweet spot.

From masterpieces like The Wire and The Sopranos, to epic works in progress like Game of Thrones and Mad Men, the last decade of television makes everything that came before it seem like Amateur 44 Minutes.

Just think: There was a time when people arguing the most complex character on television had to decide between Jed Clampett and Hoss Cartwright.

There was a time when the most impressive woman on television was Mary Tyler Moore, because she had a job (!) and could throw that hat a lot higher than people believed possible with scrawny female arms.

There was a time when spoilers were only required for big summertime cliffhangers, like Who Borgified J.R.? It wasn't really required for, say, Home Improvement. ("This week, Tim Taylor (WARNING: SPOILER AHEAD) gets his wife mad at him and talks it out with Wilson. We'll discuss the repercussions of this shocker and what it means for the next 11 seasons.")

You can also see how far TV has come if you imagine current shows as old-style programs. "On a very special episode of Game of Thrones, Daenerys Stormborn has a heart-to-heart with her dragons when they take up smoking. King Joffrey enters a skateboarding competition, much to his mother's dismay. And Taylor Swift guest stars as Lady Diva Chanteuse, of House Brokenheart."

We can't even complain about bad television — and there's lots of it — because it's so easy to avoid now. Good TV is there for the buying, renting, streaming or downloading.

For the first time in its history, television has joined the best books and movies in rewarding an active mind. And we should grasp it while we can, because if popular culture has taught us anything, it's that the good stuff never lasts.

Whether this Golden Age of Television is a byproduct of our inability to deal with real-world wars, poverty and lack of chocolate on a planet that is spinning inexorably out of control is a question I will think about eventually — like, when Game of Thrones is over.

Shhh ... TV's on.

ZOOM

An artist within the animal

Works by four-legged, fin-footed and scaled creatures on display

Briana Velazquez and Christian Venegas look at footprints on canvas by the El Paso Zoo's elephants Tuesday inside the Asian Discovery Center.

Through Sunday, Texas' El Paso Zoo will be featuring the exhibit, called Color Coated, of paintings made by snakes, elephants, seals, meerkats and a few other creatures.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARK LAMBIE/EL PASO TIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A piece of artwork done by Ibu, a Sumatran orangutan, seen at the El Paso Zoo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

If you happen to be one who tweets, but shrug at the jokes that you read, they're not all that shallow, give these wits a follow, and chuckles will soon flood your feed.

@TheLimerickKing:
What do progressives now think
On banning a sugary drink
These fools are a joke
For thinking a Coke
Is worthy of time in the clink.

@Twitmericks:
There is quite an old Argentinian
Who has a new global dominion
The pontifex Francis
Had previous chances
But now won the conclave's opinion.

I also like this pope-related one from @Twitmericks:
There was an old fellow in Rome
In a church with a bloody big dome
Who said that's enough
Of this papacy stuff
I'm going to veg out at home

Comments

RE: Lululemon Pulls Yoga Pants Off Shelves For Being Too Revealing, published March 19

These pants are made in Asia and sold here for arms and legs! I'll never ever buy these ... the fake ones make my tush look just as nice! We all know people don't buy them for yoga ... C'MON!
Too_Sense posted to metronews.ca

Any publicity is good publicity, this is nothing more than a stunt.
jordangreen posted to metronews.ca

Some people DO buy them for yoga. Not everyone is a poser. It is not that surprising that so many people pose as fitness buffs by wearing the clothes they wear. There are always knock-offs, and that's cool, but the reality is they were designed to do a job. It should be OK if the byproduct is that it is also sexy. Why is that such a problem? Isn't it up to the buyer if the clothes are too revealing or not?

Man, this is so messed up, I would be inclined to think it is at least in part publicity. Another "wardrobe malfunction" LOL.
Ron Davies posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
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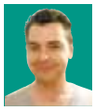
2.0: from Magnavox Odyssey to the Virtusphere

Game On. The Science Centre presents the history of video games



BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

The Virtusphere is seen here for its first Canadian appearance. Using goggles and a rotating ball, the player walks through a virtual game experience rather than just seeing it on a screen. It is part of the future look ahead that the exhibition is trying to get patrons to think about. HANDOUT

An educational exhibit about video games? You're kidding right?

"I didn't know what to expect," admits Mathieu Ranger, one of the Ontario Science Centre's resident educators and a self-described "hard-core gamer."

But Game On 2.0, the Science Centre's new interactive exhibit charting the history of video games from, pinball to Xbox, pleasantly surprised Ranger. Created by the Barbican Centre in London, England 10 years ago, the show has been continually updated as new games and technologies emerge, hence the "2.0."

"It gives a broad overview of video games as a whole," he says. "The art, culture, history, technical evolution, design and the marketing."

The carrot for most fans will be the more than 125 playable games on site. But the real thrill is seeing the evolution of the form over a relatively short period of time. It's a history that mirrors the rapid rise of computers, a modern convenience most of us take for granted.

"To see how far games have come ... it gives you an appreciation for that," Ranger says.

Ranger grew up with '90s arcade staples like Street Fighter and X-Men. "An 18-year old, their story is totally different."

It's arguable whether today's young gamers would even know what an arcade is.

"Just a few years makes a big difference," Ranger said.

Along with familiar faces like Mario, Game On is packed with obscurities. Most people are familiar with consoles like the Sega Genesis, but what about the Magnavox Odyssey?

Likewise there are a slew of oddball curiosities like the 40 button controller that accompanies Steel Battalion for Xbox. But the exhibit's focus isn't entirely backwards looking. Future game designers can create their own eight-bit character at Trios College's booth.

There are also exhibits exploring gaming's future, including the fully immersive Virtusphere, making its Canadian debut.

"There's a lot of nostalgia," says Ranger. "But there's also a lot of cross generational appeal."

Game On 2.0 runs through till September. The Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd. ontariosciencecentre.ca.

And in other entertainment

Photo contest

- **On display.** While most of the city's music community is enthralled in Canadian Music Week, rock 'n' roll photo space Analogue Gallery marches to the beat of its own drummer (probably John Bonham) with its second annual Sound Image photo contest. After an open call for concert photos a three-judge team came up with a group of winners, all of whom are on display at the Queen West gallery until the end of the month.

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David Bowie brings music to the movies

Contribution to cinema. The enigmatic musician has only had a few leading roles, but his CV is teeming with small, memorable supporting turns

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Movies have been kind to David Bowie. Where the tradition is for cinema to crush pop star hubris — just ask Madonna, Britney Spears and Mariah Carey — the one born David Jones has eked out a select but excellent filmic existence.

He's only had but a few leading roles — most notably 1976's The Man Who Fell to Earth — but his CV teems with small, memorable supporting turns: a cucumber-cool Pontius Pilate in The Last Temptation of Christ, a spot-on Andy Warhol in Basquiat, a movie-stealing Nikola Tesla in The Prestige and a deeply affecting performance as a dying vampire in the incoherent hot mess that is Tony Scott's The Hunger. (He's also very good as a co-lead in Nagisa Oshima's Japanese POW saga, Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence.)

It's too bad Bowie doesn't enjoy film acting. He's admitted finding movie sets to be artistically fallow, consisting of so much waiting around that he finds himself uninspired. (He hasn't acted in a film since a small role in 2008's August.)

But movies have also been great to his music. Yes, there are only about a thousand uses of Under Pressure. But other movies use his music in more creative ways.

In honour of The Next Day, Bowie's first album in more than a decade — and his best in ages — here's a smattering of Bowie's aural contributions to cinema.

David Bowie isn't a fan of acting. GETTY IMAGES / ALL OTHER PHOTOS ARE HANDOUTS

Christiane F (1981)

Christiane F (Vera Christine Felscherinow) achieved fame when her life as a teenage heroin addict in West Germany became the non-fiction bestseller Christiane F — We Children of Bahnhof Zoo.

It then became a low-budget movie by Ulli Edel (Last Exit to Brooklyn, The Baader Meinhof Complex). A depressing film about teenage drug addiction might not have been a big draw, but it had an ace up its sleeve: David Bowie contributed songs and appeared as himself in gratuitous concert footage.

Because the film was set in the late '70s, the music hails from his Berlin Er a and you get Helden, the German version of Heroes. Today the film is perhaps best known as a soundtrack in the David Bowie section of music stores.

Cat People (1982)

Paul Schrader's remake of Val Lewton's no-budget chiller about a woman who thinks she'll turn into a killer panther when sexually aroused is heavy and awesomely insane.

It saves its most poetically ridiculous moment for the end, which employs the slower, moodier version of Bowie's Cat People — also used to great effect in Inglourious Basterds — over a freeze frame of a sad panther face.

This holds for an entire verse before Schrader unpauses it for the song's chorus, then freeze frames it again!

Labyrinth (1985)

The movie where Bowie, made up to look like a leopard in big '80s hair, plays a puppet king who wishes to marry a 15-year-old Jennifer Connelly. When she refuses, he does the next logical thing: kidnaps her baby brother and forces her to trawl through a puppet-laden maze. It's also a part-time musical. Screenplay by Terry Jones!

Boy Meets Girl (1984)

Filmmaker Leos Carax is big again thanks to Holy Motors, but once upon a time he was the enfant terrible of French cinema and one of the major practitioners of the music video-heavy "cinema du look."

In his feature debut, Carax went to some of Bowie's earliest, when he was an incorrigible unknown cranking out whimsical Anthony Newley-esque songs. The result, a sequence set to the languid When I Live My Dream, is a lovely, lyrical moment capturing the pleasure of walking around Paris with Bowie booming in one's ears.

Lost Highway (1997)

Bowie's 1995 album Outside is one of his better latter-day works, and two of its songs were put to excellent use in two excellent movies.

Seven got Heart's Filthy Lesson, while David Lynch's comeback film — after the disastrous and unfairly maligned Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me, which featured a bizarre cameo from Bowie — opened with the (literally) driving I'm Deranged.

The Runaways (2010)

Dakota Fanning's Cherie Currie first exhibits her rock star prowess by lip synching and gyrating to Lady Grinning Soul while decked out in Aladdin Sane gear. That doesn't sound amazing when typed out, but it is.

Mauvais Sang (1986)

Carax reached for his Bowie stack again for his sophomore effort — an arty neo-noir in which philosophical crook Denis Lavant (the shape-shifting star of Holy Motors) is in love with moll Juliette Binoche.

His passions manifest in a scene where, upon hearing Bowie's Modern Love on the radio, he runs top speed down a deserted city street at night, the song booming at 11. It's the most accurate portrayal of unbridled happiness caught on film and, like most moments of unbridled happiness, it's much too short.

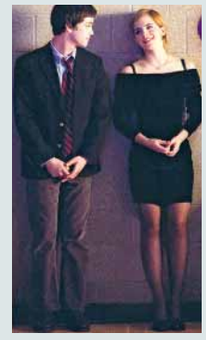
Dogville (2004)

Lars Von Trier's twisted homage to Our Town aims to be an indictment of America, in which strangers are first welcomed and then exploited by a cruel society.

To drive this point home, he ends the film with a montage of photos of American devastation and blight set to Young Americans.

Von Trier did the same thing with the sequel, Manderlay, which concerned slavery and racism.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower (2012)



Once upon a time, when you heard a song and you didn't know what it was, you might spend years, decades even, trying to hunt it down.

Set in the distant past of the early '90s, this much-liked YA picture handily depicts an era of irritating ignorance: our heroes hear Bowie's Heroes — the Wallflowers cover, from the soundtrack to 1998's Godzilla, had not yet emerged — are immediately blown away (because it's Bowie's Heroes), but don't figure out what it is until much later in the movie. Good times.

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NBC hopes for new life this spring

Ratings race. After a chilly winter, network looks to a new series that treads some edgy territory

Can J.J. Abrams' Revolution (pictured here) or the upcoming Hannibal catch NBC's freefall in the ratings? HANDOUT

Can Hannibal and Revolution signal spring for NBC?

What a bleak winter it's been for broadcast networks and their new scripted shows!

While the jury is out for CBS's Golden Boy, ABC's Zero Hour was a zero and Red Widow, based on early ratings, seems as doomed as its gunned-down mobster hubby.

And then there's NBC, whose Do No Harm, a multiple-identity crime drama, was identified after just two airings as a flop.

But that isn't the only harm done to NBC. Its midseason comedy 1600 Penn is limping, as is its midseason whodunit, Deception. In January, Broadway melodrama Smash returned for a second season to such dismal ratings it's since been banished as a lost cause to Saturday night.

It wasn't supposed to go like this.

Last fall, downtrodden NBC entered the new season with brave but only modest aspirations. Then, juiced on audience-grabber Sunday Night Football and further boosted by robust singing competition The Voice, the network vaulted to front-runner status, winning 13 of the season's first 15 weeks.

With full recognition that football goes away each January, NBC's bosses prayed that the network's unanticipated surge, plus positive reception for its upcoming new shows, might propel it across the wintry void.

But NBC has been left out in the cold. While CBS reclaimed its customary lead, NBC last month brought up the rear not only behind customary rivals ABC and Fox, but also, for the first time in history, the Spanish-language Univision.

Now, in the next few days, NBC will confront two indicators of how soon, if ever, it can hope to regain life.

On Monday, the network brings back its sci-fi drama Revolution, an apocalyptic lights-out thriller produced by fan favourite J.J. Abrams. In NBC's heady days last autumn, Revolution emerged as a budding hit. But in November, it took a midseason break.

Will viewers come back for it now? Can Revolution reclaim its hit status on a diminished NBC, however buoyed by the return of The Voice as its lead-in?

Little more than a week later, a new series could prove to be an even more revealing acid test of NBC's prospects. Premiering on April 4, Hannibal must almost be the first broadcast series whose hero is a foodie with a special taste for human body parts.

One hopeful sign for NBC: as a grisly crime show with a psychiatrist-turned-serial-killer (played by Mads Mikkelson) and an FBI profiler (Hugh Dancy) chasing him and his imitators, Hannibal bears more than a passing resemblance to Fox's The Following, which stars Kevin Bacon as a former FBI agent chasing a serial killer (James Purefoy) and his network of disciples.

The signs are clear that broadcast networks are moving into edgier territory, upping the ante to win audience support.

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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 39

Judd Apatow and Leslie Mann both accepted turning 40. GETTY IMAGES

A writer looks at 40

Middle-aged musing. Judd Apatow and wife Leslie Mann reflect on their milestone birthday

Comedy maven Judd Apatow distinctly remembers the day he reached the milestone birthday that shapes his film This is 40, which comes out on DVD/Blu-ray on Friday.

"The day I turned 40 my wife was shooting a movie with Zac Efron, so I visited her on the set and she was dancing with him in a scene," the 45-year-old writer/producer/director, who's married to This is 40 star Leslie Mann, said in a recent telephone interview.

"So I had to watch her dance with Zac Efron all night. That may have scarred me."

Mann has a different take on the experience.

"That was fun!" the comedic actress said with a laugh in a separate telephone interview.

As it turned out, sultry dancing was also a key part of Mann's 40th birthday nearly a year ago.

"I went to Hawaii with my girlfriends and we went to a night club and we danced on a stripper pole, with our clothes on, but the night club was empty," Mann recalled on the line from Los Angeles.

"It was like a Wednesday night or something and ... we had a lot to drink.

"And the next day we were covered in bruises from the pole, because you have to be in really good shape to go on those poles. I mean, it takes a lot of core strength, which we don't have," she continued.

"But we had a good time, and you know (40), has been pretty good. I seem pretty OK with it. Thirty was harder for me than 40."

Apatow feels the same way.

"I found 30 to be a trickier birthday, because I always felt like you were supposed to go nuts when you're in your 20s and I didn't. I just worked really hard as a writer and I didn't take the time to have a lot of mad fun," said the New York native, who did standup comedy before moving on to an acclaimed TV and film career.

"So when my 20s ended I thought, 'Oh my god, I missed it. I didn't do what you're supposed to do.' Then I just resigned myself to it being over."

Mann's character in This is 40, meanwhile, is not OK with leaving her 30s and lies about her age. Paul Rudd plays her husband, who is entering his 40th year with financial woes at his record label.

Apatow wrote and directed the dramedy that co-stars his and Mann's children, Maude and Iris, as the family's daughters.

The story is "a big soup of real experiences" and reflects his fascination with why people struggle to get along, he said.

Apatow on relationships

- **Communication.** "When people know how to say the right thing but they get so caught up in their own ego that they say the wrong thing. That always makes me laugh, people who get off the rails, because ultimately we want everyone to take care of us and it's hard to make it about the other person."

"The basic idea of trying really hard to make a marriage work over the long-term is interesting to me and I am fascinated by bad communication skills," said Apatow, who made his feature directorial debut with The 40-Year-Old Virgin, which he also co-wrote.

This is 40 is billed "a sort-of sequel" to Apatow's hit 2007 comedy film Knocked Up, which also featured Mann, Maude and Iris.

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metro

Lily Tomlin. Actress was ready to bare it all in the name of feminism

Lily Tomlin says like her character in Admission, she's a feminist. HANDOUT

Admission is a romantic comedy, not an action movie, so it comes as something of a surprise that one of its stars wanted to advertise their physique with a scene in which they chop wood bare-chested in the forest. Even more surprising? That star was comedy legend Lily Tomlin. "I wanted to be in the woods chopping wood with my shirt off," Tomlin reveals about her character, a septuagenarian feminist whose adult life has been devoted to activism. "The character has a double mastectomy, and I think, I'll get a breastplate made like I've had a double mastectomy and I'll tattoo it to show another expression of her empowerment and how she's completely at ease with herself and accepts her female body."

Unfortunately, the actress landed the role too late to be able to follow through on her plan. But even without the requisite hardware she wanted to bare her body on screen, she reached into her own experiences in order to bare her character's soul. "I am a feminist and I lived in those days of the movement," Tomlin explains. "And I know what it is as a human [to believe] in a certain philosophy or some doctrine — and you do not want to betray it."

As Susannah, Tomlin plays the mother of Tina Fey's Princeton admissions officer, Portia, who's fumbling her way through a romance with an alternative high school principal (Paul Rudd) while simultaneously dealing with the revelation that an applicant just might be her long-lost son. The 73-year-old actress says that she loved the parallels she saw between mother and daughter, particularly since like her daughter's long-concealed pregnancy, Susannah had Portia under dubious circumstances that she has since re-imagined as an emblem of her feminist values. "My character got pregnant from having sex with a guy she's attracted to on the train, but she doesn't want to admit that she was so attracted to this guy that she was vulnerable to him," Tomlin observes. "So she creates that mythology that she chose him and she was empowered enough to decide when she was going to have a child and who she was going to have it with."

NED EHRBAR, MWN

Punny movie

Lily Tomlin liked that the film possessed so many layers while still managing to deliver on a visceral level. "Aside from the feminist aspect, it's just a human story about people not being their authentic selves," she says. "Every one of us was living some kind of inauthenticity. "The metaphor of admission, in the course of the movie we all have an admission," she says, punctuating the film's title. "I love the slug line — 'let someone in.'"

Fey has an admission to make about school

Princeton pass over. Filming latest project brought up memories of rejection for comedian and writer

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Playing a gatekeeper deciding who does and doesn't get into Princeton in Admission brought some long-buried memories to the surface for Tina Fey. "It did remind me that I had actually applied to Princeton and had been rejected, but I felt OK about that," says Fey, who earned her bachelor's at the University of Virginia. "I didn't get mad when I was shooting on the Princeton campus. It was fine."

In fact, Fey credits her Pennsylvania upbringing for sparing her from much of the Ivy League anxiety forced upon other teenagers. "I wasn't growing up in some kind of private-school world where it was expected of you to try to get into an Ivy League school," she says. "I think there are people who grow up in a family where it's like, 'If you don't get into Harvard or Yale or Princeton, you're done!' I think that's craziness."

Though she made a name for creating her own characters — most notably Liz Lemon on 30 Rock, Fey came to Admission primarily as an actress. "I thought the character of Portia was interesting because I hadn't seen a movie about this world of college admissions before, and it is a world that's filled with so much anxiety and therefore humour for people on all sides of it," she says of her attraction to the project.

Tina Fey and Paul Rudd star in Admission, which opens Friday. HANDOUT

"I also liked that she's an adult and she is intelligent, and at the same time she still has this huge, explosive emotional thing happen in her life. I also thought it was an interesting story that you see these characters who are chasing motherhood and in pursuit of motherhood, and this is a character who decidedly did not want to be a mother but because of the given circumstances has to cope with the idea that maybe she is."

As for being a mother herself? "I'm in favour of it," Fey declares with a laugh. "I'm a mother of two, and it's certainly probably the hardest — parenthood, motherhood or fatherhood — is probably the hardest job you could ever do, but it is rewarding in a unique way as well."

Quoted

"I wasn't growing up in some kind of private-school world where it was expected of you to try to get into an Ivy League School

Tina Fey on her own experiences with applying to universities, and Princeton in particular.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Naomi Watts. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Naomi Watts digs deep with words on plastic surgery

Naomi Watts isn't ruling out plastic surgery as an option, but she does worry it might limit her job prospects.

"Never say never — and I certainly don't judge anyone who does it — but most of the characters I play are going through some kind of emotional turmoil, so my job requires me to have expression," Watts tells Australia's Good Health magazine. "If my face was frozen, what right do I have to play that part? All the women who haven't (done) anything to their faces are still able to play great roles. And some of the ones who have done something have messed it up — they look freakish. Anyway, for me it's about playing women with rich lives. And the longer the life, the deeper the wrinkles."

The Word

James Franco couldn't care less if you don't like what he does

James Franco has caught flak for his myriad film and art projects he's launched and academic degrees he's pursued, but he's not letting the haters get him down.

"Criticism can sting but not for long. At this point I've heard it all, good and bad. I can take anything," Franco tells Bullett magazine. "If anyone wants to say that my doing these things makes me a jerk, that's not about me — that's about people reacting to me. I don't need to be liked for anything I do."

He continued on about his haters and why they react the way they do.

"I put out a lot of different kinds of material, and maybe people read that as egotistical. Or maybe, since a lot of it does involve some aspect of me, they find it self-aggrandizing. But there's a long tradition of artists using themselves."

Twitter

@katyperry
About to watch Wayne's World. For the first time...

@MARLONLWAYANS
You don't have to figure life out... It has its way of figuring itself out

@SethMacFarlane
In pre-production for A Million Ways To Die in the West. My horse hasn't kicked me yet, but he did say he hates Family Guy past season 3.

Pink cares about all her fans, no matter how young.

Pink stops show to help little girl

Pink certainly knows how to keep the peace. The singer halted a recent Philadelphia concert when she noticed a little girl in the crowd crying, according to Us Weekly.

"Is everything OK right? Is this little girl all right? Why is she crying? Why is she upset?" asked Pink, who was informed by audience members that an altercation had upset the young girl. "Because there was a fight? You all are fighting around a little girl?" she asked.

Pink then coaxed the girl on stage and gave her a treat.

"Honey, do you want this frog and this Rice Krispies treat?"

Before getting back to the music, she also had a message for the rest of the crowd.

"Are we OK now? Cut it out, y'all. We're grown-ass women."

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Fall into fashion's future

After four gruelling fashion weeks — New York, London, Milan and Paris — we distilled the biggest themes that came down the runways. Here's what you can expect to wear next autumn.

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

Back to black

As far as New York goes, one message was clear: fall is going to be all about wearable clothes. And let's face it, nothing in your wardrobe is more versatile than black. It's no surprise then that the classic shade ruled the runways. Pair black items with white for another key trend.

SEEN HERE: RAG & BONE

Plays on texture

Forget clothes in plain wool or cotton — designers used luxurious textured fabrics such as high-shine pony hair, wooly alpaca, sophisticated tweed and quilted leather to add a layer of interest to their fall looks.

SEEN HERE: LANVIN

Menswear inspired

Borrowing from the boys has been popular for the past few seasons. Designers furthered explored the trend for fall with slouchy, loose suiting.

SEEN HERE: BLUMARINE

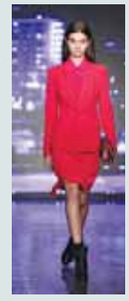
Oversized coats

Besides the tremendous amount of fur on the runway (is PETA still doing their job?) there was another overwhelmingly ubiquitous outerwear trend: coats in oversized proportions and exaggerated cocoon shapes. Squeezing into a crowded subway in one of these is going to be fun.

SEEN HERE: ROCHAS

Pink gets its day

The colour pink gets a bad rap as an uncool girly-girl shade — but that's about to change. Come fall, expect to see stand-out items in every permutation of pink ranging from soft blush to bold fuchsia.



SEEN HERE: DKNY

There's a lady in the house

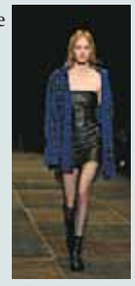
For those of you who don't do androgyny, feminine staples such as peplum tops, full skirts with longer hemlines and pencil skirts with cinched jackets gave collections a polished, lady-like feel.

SEEN HERE: ROCHAS

ALL PHOUTOS GETTY IMAGES

Plaid and checks

Whether you go '90s grunge a la Saint Laurent or the more formal route with houndstooth and Prince of Wales check as shown at Tommy Hilfiger, expect to be part of the plaid parade come Fall.



SEEN HERE: SAINT LAURENT

Winter white

People anxious about getting side eyes for wearing white in the cold seasons can finally put that fear to rest. Designers showed full looks in dreamy pale shades.

SEEN HERE: GIAMBATTISTA VALLI

High slits

Are all the safe, wearable clothes putting you to sleep? Skirts and dresses with slits up to there added a sexy jolt to the fall shows.

SEEN HERE: GIVENCHY

Embellishments galore

This never really ever went out of style. But this show season, the decoration was especially in-your-face with shimmer on top of crystal on top of metal on top of feathers. No matter what your trimming of choice is, there was an option to choose from on the runway.

SEEN HERE: BURBERRY

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This is where the fashion happens...

Metro goes backstage with fashion show sponsor Kobo and show producer The Collections for a look at Canadian designer Matthew Gallagher's debut show at World MasterCard Fashion Week in Toronto. Follow Irene Kuan, creator of Metro's new beauty and fashion blog Trendscaping, as she liveblogs the behind-the-scenes drama.

PHOTO: GALIT RODAN / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Irene Kuan

Face it: I know this much is Drew

Expert exfoliator.
Drew Barrymore washes her face at least four times a day to stave off breakouts. What are her tricks?

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Drew Barrymore's new makeup line
Flower is made up of BB creams, eyeshadows, mascaras, bronzers and lipsticks with trippy hippie names like Camelia Charm and Awesome Blossom.

"I've been in a makeup chair my whole life playing with every product, from prestige to budget. But I think every woman should be able to afford a more inexpensive experience," she says. And with 181 products to choose from, all priced between $5 and $14, you can take your pick. She shares some of her beauty wisdom with us.

Drew on.... Her beauty OCD
"I wash my face three or four times a day. And I'm being conservative with the estimate! I like to keep my skin clean and clear because if I let it get dirty, I can get breakouts. So it's really all in an effort to have a fresh feeling. When you're in film or fashion, you have to wear makeup for up to 16 hours a day. So when I have time off in my real life, I wash obsessively."

Sleepless nights with baby Olive
"I'm definitely going to search more rapidly for a dark circle corrector. I caught a glimpse of myself in the mirror the other day and I couldn't believe what I saw. It was just a fast glimpse so I went back and was like, "No, yeah. I did see that!" I looked like I'd gotten punched. But in a weird way, it made me happy. At least these dark circles mean I'm a new mom as opposed to other reasons."

Looking for "the one"
"I'm still searching for "the one" when it comes to the best skin care product. I play around a lot. I would love to curate a skin line for people like me, who want the benefits of the intense stuff, without the negatives of the strength because my face doesn't react well to it."

38-year-old Drew Barrymore is now a mother to six-month-old baby Olive.
SARA JAYE WEISS / STARTRAKSPHOTO.COM

Inside Drew's makeup bag

"My makeup bag changes from week to week. I like putting different combinations together," she says. Right now, she's using the following.

- **Flower Colour Play Creme Eyeshadow in Orchid-ing**

Around. "It's got this wonderful grayish, purple, smokey hue to it. I'm mad about it. All you need is one swipe and you're done."

- **Shu Uemura eyelash curlers and Tweezerman Slant Tweezers.** "I definitely still rock the good old Shu Uemura eyelash curler (shuuemura-usa.com) and Tweezerman tweezers (tweezerman.com). I find that even when I stray and try other products, I tend to go back to those."

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@SeaAndBeScene: Happy Birthday Ms.Beker - eat cake & celebrate YOU!!! From your fans on Canada's East Coast (and there are a LOT of 'em) xo

@LindaFrum: Best birthday wishes to you Jeanne!

@Jeanne_Beker: The gals @PINK_TARTAN. All giving off that perfect @kimnewport vibe!

@Jeanne_Beker: Sophisticated wearability from Izzy Camilleri's new MIZ collection...

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Halifax

Tosan Ikomi

Student

Age: 23

What she's wearing
Scarf from Ethiopia, Vagabond vintage coat, Guess jeans, Winner purse, Aldo boots.

Her inspiration
"I usually dress according to how I'm feeling, but this outfit was inspired by what a friend was wearing yesterday."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: MEGHAN TANSEY WHITTON, FASHIONEASTHALIFAX.COM

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Face time

Your epidermis is glowing!

How well do you really know your skin type? Are the products you're currently using actually doing your visage a disservice? The Vichy Skin Health Centre will be open to the general public today through until Sunday, March 24 at the Eaton Centre to educate people about their own complexion and about proper skin health. Individuals can have their skin fully diagnosed using the three following tools:

- The hydrometerm, which tests skin hydration levels.
- The video skin microscope, which examines the skin up-close looking for dilated and clogged pores, wrinkles, and other skin conditions.
- The UV camera, which shows sun damage underneath the surface of the skin.

Samples and suggestions will be available, so be sure to show your faces!

METRO

The Vichy Skin Health Centre will be open during regular mall hours.
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Live on the curly pasta edge with Sicilian-inspired Lamb Ragu

This is one of Nigella Lawson's go-to weeknight suppers. She says you can cook the ragu longer at a lower heat, if desired, but it's also perfect as is.

This recipe calls for pappardelle — those egg-rich, wide ribbons — but you can use whatever type of pasta you have on hand.

"Ragout" is French, "ragu" Italian, and this meat sauce is inspired by the Sicilian combination of sweet lamb, dried wild mint and crushed chili flakes, though Lawson said she has added an Anglo note with a little red currant jelly.

Ingredients

- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) garlic-infused olive oil
- 1 banana shallot, chopped
- 5 ml (1 tsp) dried mint
- 5 ml (1 tsp) oregano
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) crushed red pepper flakes
- 250 g (8 oz) ground lamb
- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) diced tomatoes
- 10 ml (2 tsp) red currant jelly
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) Worcestershire sauce
- Pinch salt, plus more for pasta water
- Freshly ground pepper
- 250 g (8 oz) pappardelle
- Handful fresh mint, to garnish (optional)

1. Put a large pan of water on to boil for the pasta and warm garlic oil in a small, heavy-based pan that comes with a lid; cook shallots, stirring for a minute or so.

2. Sprinkle in mint, oregano and red pepper flakes, stirring again in hot pan before adding meat. Cook for a couple of minutes, stirring to break it up with a wooden spatula or spoon, until it loses a bit of its pinkness.

3. Add tomatoes, red currant jelly, Worcestershire sauce, salt and some grindings of pepper, then give a good stir and bring to a bubble. Partially cover with the lid and simmer for 20 minutes.

4. At the appropriate time, salt the boiling water and cook pasta according to package instructions, making sure to check for readiness a couple of minutes before it's supposed to be done. Once cooked and not-too-efficiently drained, return pasta to pan and dress with lamb ragu.

5. Sprinkle a little bit of fresh mint onto each bowl, if desired, to serve. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ NIGELLISSIMA: EASY ITALIAN-INSPIRED RECIPES BY NIGELLA LAWSON (KNOPF CANADA, 2013).**

Curly-Edged Pasta With Lamb Ragu

This recipe serves two. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

Flavours of Italy

In her book Nigellissima: Easy Italian-Inspired Recipes, Nigella Lawson offers up dishes that don't require inaccessible ingredients or techniques. That's because Nigellissima shows readers how a weeknight dish can be a faithful (and delicious) interpretation of traditional Italian fares.

Included are recipes like Italian Roast Chicken with Peppers and Olives; Shortcut Sausage Meatballs; Spaghetti with Tuna, Lemon and Arugula; Nutella Cheesecake, and more. **METRO**

Dinner. Gemilli Pasta with Anchovies & Breadcrumbs

Ingredients

- 1 lb gemilli pasta
- 4 tbsp olive oil, divided
- 2-oz tin oil-packed anchovies
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 large tomatoes, diced
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, plus extra for serving

1. Bring saucepan of salted water to boil. Add pasta and cook until al dente, 7 mins. Reserve 1/4 cup cooking water. Drain and return pasta to pot. Drizzle with 1 tablespoon of olive oil, toss, cover and set aside.

2. In sauté pan over med-high, heat olive oil. Add anchovies and sauté 5 minutes, breaking up with spatula until dissolved into paste. Add garlic and sauté 1 min., then add tomato. Cook, stirring often, until tomato begins to break down, 7 mins. Season with pepper. For thinner sauce, stir in a bit of the reserved pasta cooking water.

3. Uncover pasta and sprinkle in breadcrumbs and Parmesan, tossing until coated. Divide pasta between 4 serving bowls, then spoon sauce into centre of each. Top each serving with additional grated Parmesan cheese. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Junction Triangle church conversion

The former Perth Avenue Methodist Church will be converted into 40 units. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Union Lofts
- **Builder.** Windmill Development Group
- **Location.** 243 Perth Ave.
- **Website.** unionlofts.ca
- **Sizes.** From 550 to 1,200 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From $249,900 to $629,900

The project overview

Union Lofts will convert the Perth Avenue Methodist Church into an intimate boutique building of 40 units, spread over the existing church building and the new vestry building. The church has stood at its location on the north-east corner of Perth and Wallace Avenues since 1913.

Location and transit

Located in the Junction Triangle near High Park, the building is a short distance from the Bloor subway and GO rail station. Commuters can be in the downtown core within 30 minutes. A short drive to the Gardiner Expressway.

In the neighbourhood

There are plenty of shopping and restaurants in this eclectic Bloor Street West neighbourhood along with several schools nearby and a wide range of businesses, services and amenities in the surrounding area.

Building amenities

There's a private patio and each suite has either a terrace, balcony or Juliette balcony. Private storage lockers available on the lower level, residents' bicycle parking located in the secure underground parking, visitor bicycle parking located near the entranceway.

Five-year mortgage rates

FIXED		VARIABLE
2.99%	BMO	3.10%
5.24%	CIBC	3.20%
3.49%	HSBC	3.00%
3.44%	ICICI	3.00%
3.08%	ING	3.00%
3.29%	RBC	3.20%
4.99%	SCOTIA	3.10%
5.14%	TD	3.20%
3.79%	NATIONAL	3.20%
2.79%	BROKER	2.55%

RATES MAY VARY BY PROVINCE. RATESUPERMARKET.CA FOR THE BEST RATES IN YOUR AREA.

Rooftop Surfing

An ode to quality

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

There's a lot to be said about the quality of work submitted by professional RenoMark™ renovators at last week's Renovation and Custom Home Awards.

In fact, the before-and-after photos of this year's winners and finalists are really turning some heads at Destination Renovation — BILD's feature exhibit at the National Home Show which runs all the way until Sunday.

What really stood out for me, however, are the two award categories that are normally not associated with renovation. One of them is the award for best condominium renovation — a category introduced last year. Our winner, Eurodale Developments, took a 3,000-square-foot condo and transformed it into something truly amazing by adding function without sacrificing style.

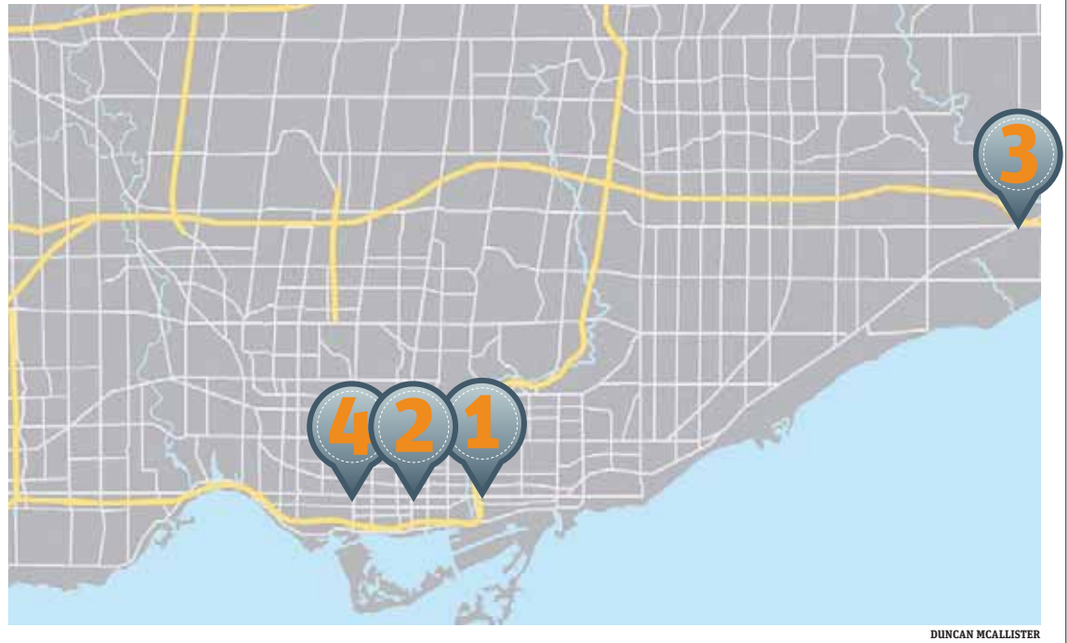
The second category I was really looking forward to is our inaugural green renovation of the year award, which was kindly sponsored by Enbridge Gas Distribution. The top honours were awarded to SevernWoods Construction Inc. for rebuilding a 1950s North York home using sustainable features and finishes.

Other winners of the night included Golden Bee Homes Inc. which was recognized in the best renovation under $75,000 category. Carick Home Improvements won best renovation $75,000 to $150,000 category while Attard Construction Corp. was the winner for the Best Renovation $150,000 to $300,000. In the best renovation $300,000 to $500,000 category, Decksterity Carpentry Contracting Ltd. Took home the trophy.

In the best renovation over $500,000 category, the competition was so tough that it ended in a tie. Lewitt Construction Inc. and SevernWoods Construction Inc. were both recognized as winners.

In the very competitive category of best custom home, a home built by Tony Ferkul Construction Management Group and designed by David W. Small Designs Inc. was crowned the best of the best. No renovation award ceremony is complete without the renovator of the year award. This year, the honours went to A Lifetime Contractor for setting the standard for the rest of the sector in their leadership and commitment to customer service.

What's hot on the condo market



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Queen West

Penthouse Collection Premiere: The Carnaby condos in Queen Street West. Presentation centre located at 43 Davies Ave., March 23 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-690-9009 OR VISIT CARNABYLOFTS.COM

2. Downtown

Rent to Own Seminar: Cinema Tower condos. Presentation centre located at 325 Adelaide St. W., March 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

CONTACT:CALL 416-203-2020 OR VISIT CINEMATOWERCONDOS.COM

3. Scarborough

Grand Opening: Three7 Condos and Lofts. 4630 Kingston Rd., Unit 6, March 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 905-415-1880 OR VISIT ESQUIREHOMES.CA

4. Downtown

Phase 3 Release: The Brant Park condos. Presentation centre at 434 Adelaide St. W., March 23 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-368-5262 OR VISIT LAMBDEVCORP.COM

Bringing a tiny space into the future

This 1970's condo kitchen is ready to be brought into more modern times. PROVIDED

The tiny five-by-eight foot kitchen in my 1970's condo is in desperate need of an update, but the space is tiny! I'm hoping you can offer some suggestions to make it look modern and larger.
-Sylvia G, via email

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

The redeeming feature of your kitchen is the large window that lets in lots of light, so no matter how small your kitchen area might be it will never look dark.

Here are a few design tips and products that will help modernize your kitchen.

Keep the major elements, such as your stove, fridge and sink in the same areas and consider replacing/upgrading what you have now. That way you will not have to worry about complicated electrical or plumbing issues. I would flip the fridge and stove (simple electrical changes); that way, when you look into the kitchen the stove will offer you more visual depth into the room, making it look larger.

Appliances

Choose a 24-inch-wide fridge with a reflective stainless finish. The narrow fridges today come much taller and are counter depth for a fitted look. I would suggest replacing the stove with a two-burner counter cook top, then build in a micro-convection oven below. This will free up more counter space.

Cupboards

Since your kitchen is small but bright, I suggest a glossy door in a light colour. The glossy finish will reflect light and keep the small area bright. Consider adding a set of glass-fronted cabinet doors on the cupboards above the sink to add a break in the long row of cabinets and allow an attractive area for display.

Countertops

A stone countertop will give you two things: a high-end look for your kitchen and durability. I suggest choosing a countertop colour that blends the colours of your fridge/stove together. For instance, if you choose black appliances then choose a darker countertop. For stainless appliances, go for medium greyish tones and for white appliances go with light counters.

Backsplash and flooring

Your backsplash should marry your upper and lower cabinets together with its tone/colour. For instance, if you have white cabinetry then choose a white backsplash. For a room-expanding effect consider a mirrored backsplash. I like the grey/smoke mirror for a dramatic effect. This tends to look best when incorporating darker cupboards and counters into a kitchen. Your flooring should be a durable, non-gloss tile in a colour/tone that matches the new appliances you choose.

Lighting

Investing in under-cupboard lighting will add drama at night and allow you to use the kitchen without turning on the bright overhead light. Add a low-profile track light in a modern look to keep the overhead light fixture tight to the ceiling, this will make your ceilings appear taller.

Paint colour

If you want to make the room look large, make sure the gloss and paint on the walls match the cabinets. If you're dealing with a lighter tone, then paint the ceiling the same colour for consistency.

A tall, slim fridge with a stainless look can give a modern style even when only 24 inches wide. LG.COM

A white/grey fleck quartz counter adds a touch of luxury and durability. CAMBRIACANADA.COM

A small cooktop frees up counter space in a tiny kitchen. GEAPPLIANCES.CA

White glossy cabinetry helps to reflect light and keep a kitchen modern in its look. IKEA.COM

Tips and tricks for a bigger looking bathroom

Don't you wish you had a bigger bathroom? In a recent survey conducted by Moen Incorporated, almost half of the respondents (45 per cent) said they "wish they could make their bathroom larger."

If a new bath isn't in your budget, use these tips to turn a small bathroom to one that feels spacious and soothing – without a major remodel.

Blend in, but make a statement

Using an intense colour palette can weigh down a small room, so try using a cooler palette, including pastels and neutral tones, to add size and depth to a tiny space.

Continue the colour scheme to the trim, vanity and door to create a "disappearing" look that will lengthen the walls. By eliminating the hard edges created by drastic changes in colour, your eye will flow smoothly across the room.

It's also important to look at small details, like faucets and accessories, to make a statement.

Choosing a fashionable, uncomplicated design can provide a beautiful focal point in your new bath.

Take a look in the mirror

A mirror in the bathroom can do more than just show your reflection — it can stretch the space.

Mirrors reflect both natural and artificial light, making a smaller room look bigger and brighter.

A great trick for improving the room's reflective qualities is to hang a large, horizontal mirror along the longest wall of the bath.

If a large mirror is out of your budget, you can create the same effect by grouping an arrangement of smaller mirrors.

For a never-ending room, position two mirrors on opposite walls to create the perfect illusion. Whatever technique you choose, mirrors are great decor pieces that won't muddle a small bath.

Say no to big and bulky

Traditional, large vanities with cabinet drawers can make an already petite-looking bath appear even smaller.

In order to avoid this common misstep, either install a vanity with open storage areas or try suspending shelving for a contemporary feel.

This will create a more spacious look by giving the shelving a light and airy appearance.

NEWSCANADA

You're not alone. A bigger bathroom is on many wish lists. NEWSCANADA

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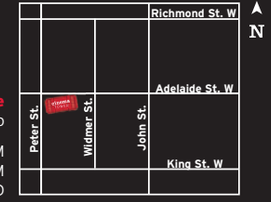

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Easter decor goes beyond cute to chic

Fuzzy chicks and cute bunnies are part of the pastel pantheon of Easter decor, and their charm helps define the look of the season. But for those who prefer celebrating with a modern esthetic, there are many attractive decor options that are a tad less cute and a tad more contemporary. Some reference Easter's traditional colour palette in new ways, while others put a modern twist on the holiday's iconic elements.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stuffed felted bunnies and chicks

Canadian textile artist Cristina Larsen crafts winsome stuffed felted bunnies and chicks in a rainbow of hues that have a terrific design-y vibe.

"I use merino wool to make all my felt. I dye the colours and stitch every toy by hand," she says. While Larsen calls them "toys," they'd be equally at home as artsy Easter decor. etsy.com/shop/textileplatypus.

Martha Stewart Living Easter decor

There are some other clever decorating ideas on Stewart's website for those with a slightly crafty hand, like studding wreaths and Styrofoam balls with dozens of pussy willow catkins. Use eggs in interesting ways. You'll find instructions at marthastewart.com on how to make decorative eggs and wreaths that have a tailored look, using muted paint and trims. Metallic paint and glitter-coated eggs amp up the wow factor. There are tips too on using eggshells and egg cups as vases for diminutive bouquets of lily of the valley or pansies.

Glitter covered eggs

Pottery Barn has realistic speckled and robin's eggs that would make pretty filler for tabletop bowls and vases. There are lustre-finished glass eggs here, too, in soft yellow, pink and blue that would look smart on a grey or navy tablecloth or sleek lacquered console.

Mercury-glass pillar candle holders

Blue Mercury glass brings in one of the iconic pastel hues of the Easter season in a fresh new way. The candle holders are rendered in an interesting new shimmery pale blue. And there's an elegant silver-plated cake server embossed with a rabbit motif.

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Putting new batteries into old smoke alarms can put your family's safety at risk.

The Home Depot and Kidde Canada remind you that all smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years, whether battery powered or hardwired.
Look for a sticker or a date of manufacturing on the alarm. If you can't find a date, or can't remember the last time you replaced your smoke alarms, please do so immediately!

REMEMBER: In Ontario it's the law to have a working smoke alarm on every storey of your home.

Kidde

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For more safety tips visit

Safe At Home.ca

New Toronto properties are showcasing the latest in condo amenities

Trends. Developers are competing to offer the latest and most sought-after extras

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

From commercial-grade athletic facilities to high-tech gaming rooms to rooftop basketball courts, amenities are a big part of the condo package.

A new mid-rise on Dovercourt Road has a number of interesting offerings.

It's the little added touches that make ART condos unique. In an effort to make all four sides of the building significant, the rear loading dock doubles as an event space.

Says Gary Silverberg, principal of Triangle West Developments, "The loading dock has been designed to also be an event space and to have the best lit loading trucks in the city. We have stage lighting there, a disco ball and a movie theatre-quality projector. We've already had a pretty big party there, I think it was 300 people that showed up."

The whole building has been wired for high-tech services. Each suite has been cabled for home theatre with connections between rooms. There's even a hookup for a projection TV in the middle of the living room.

For the gaming fanatics, Chaz condos leads the way. Jason Fane, president of 45 Charles Ltd., explains: "We have a computer gamers' arena and this is designed for the hard-core gamer. It's a facility that will have the best and latest equipment, will have the 4K video screens, the best computer games and it will be designed for having competitions."

Steve Gupta, president and CEO of Easton's Group of Companies, learned a lot about amenities from building a national hotel empire.

In his recently announced King Blue condo project in downtown Toronto, they offer a number of services to make downtown living more convenient.

"We have a fitness centre overhanging into our courtyard on the sixth floor, with state-of-the-art equipment similar to our hotels. We have a terrace with 5,800 square feet of outdoor garden with a fire pit, waterfalls and a bar on the top of the south podium roof," says Gupta.

Royal LePage salesperson Terry Szwec talks about the amenity makeover at the "grande dame" of condos, Palace Pier, which opened 38 years ago.

"It was 37 years ahead of its time. Look at this list of features: totally new, redone salt water pool, state-of-the art gym, tennis, roof top deck, squash, golf, pool, ping-pong, library, valet, valet parking and shuttle bus. All overlooking nine acres and the lake."

The units at ART condos come equipped with a hookup for a projection TV in the middle of the

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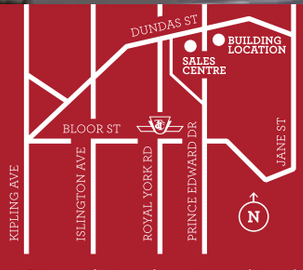

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living room. HANDOUT

Legal Matters

What's my status certificate?

I am in the process of purchasing a condominium and my realtor has suggested that we put in a clause in the agreement that the deal is conditional on review of the status certificate by my lawyer.

What is a status certificate and what does this involve?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

A status certificate is a legally drafted document from the Condominium Corporation that sets out the basic information for the condominium.

In particular, it lets the reader know if there are the following: arrears in the common expenses for the potential purchase, what units belong to the vendor including parking and lockers, if the condo has any ongoing lawsuits and if the reserve fund is adequate for repairs.

Usually, you get your lawyer to review this document in conjunction with other purchase documents to make sure there is nothing unusual with the condo.

More than often, it is a condition of the bank to have your lawyer also review these documents.

It is a standard clause that is included in the purchase of a condominium which is one more hoop to jump through but which is vitally important to your financing, your actual purchase and generally knowledge about your potential purchase.

A very important step.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website at cowanlaw.ca

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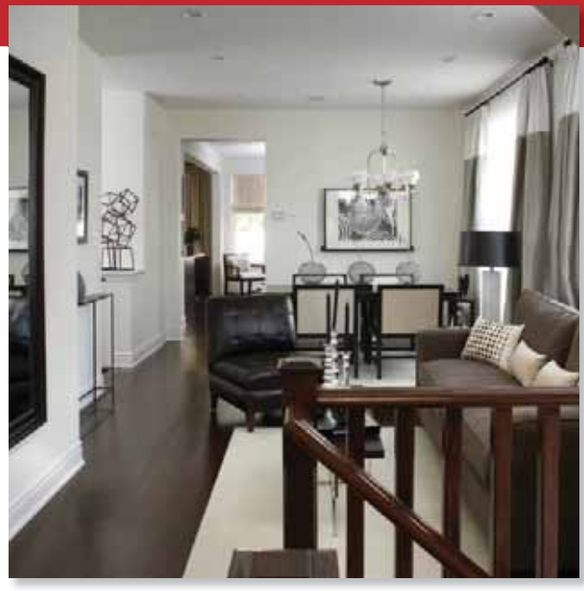

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Monarch

Yo! Let's kick up your backyard style! Ice is back with a brand new season

DIY ideas. Harness your inner rapping renovator

Barbecue season is fast approaching and your backyard is probably looking a little shabby.

If you didn't get your visit to a tropical island this winter it's time to forget the Ice, Ice Baby and incorporate your vacation dreams into your backyard.

Get a few tips from Vanilla Ice, host of The Vanilla Ice Project.

Landscape

To create a vacation spot in your backyard, start with rich foliage, large leaves and colours. When visiting your local gardening store don't be afraid to go overboard with greenery. In addition to plants that will surround your yard with a lush atmosphere, choose some that will vine and climb on fences which will create more privacy and a feeling of escape in your own backyard.

Water features

There's nothing that can compare to the serene sound of running water. It will instantly bring an element of calm and relaxation to your backyard oasis.

Placing a waterfall within your newly planted garden sounds lovely and can be made even more esthetically pleasing by surrounding it with a stone walkway for traction.

Tiki torches

To add extra light around your yard, Tiki lamps are a great accessory.

Purchasing citronella candles to put into your Tiki torches will help build a shield against mosquitoes, allowing you to spend more time in your backyard after the sun goes down.

Vanilla Ice is back to help you make the most of your backyard space. HANDOUT

Fire pit

Building a fire pit will allow you to spend much more time in your new backyard — not only longer into the evenings but also at the beginning and end of the summer, when nights can be cooler.

A fire pit also opens up the possibilities for outdoor activities like roasting marshmallows and hotdogs.

Canopies

Create a picture perfect backyard worthy of a magazine spread by adding a canopy over the generic stylings of tables, chairs and benches.

The option of a canopy-enclosed day bed is also a great touch, especially if you are lucky enough to have a pool in your backyard.

They instantly add movie star appeal to your outdoor style. Canopies bring a feeling of romance and luxury while dining outdoors or lying away from the sun while enjoying the summer breeze blowing through the drapes over you.

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Discover the world of modular building at the Dream Home built by Quality Homes and presented by the Toronto Star. Built in a climate-controlled state-of-the-art indoor facility, this home showcases the latest in building renovations. Plus, see the latest in design trends with furnishings by casalife and tour the Dream Garage by Proslat.

Check out the Unilock Celebrity Stage presented by HGTV, for live presentations from industry experts including HGTV celebrity hosts, Bryan Baeumler of *Leave it to Bryan* and Paul Lafrance of *Decked Out*. Plus, see gardening gurus Frank Ferragine and Mark Cullen.

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PRODUCED BY MARKETPLACE EVENTS

WallPops add some pop to your home

Decor. Wall coverings can be used instead of wallpaper on windows and even on chandeliers

LINDA LABAN
Metro World News in Boston

Ready for a spring home spruce-up? Brewster Home Fashions' contemporary offshoot, WallPops, provides the ultimate in cheap and chic with its line of wall decals and DIY fixtures.

"The glory is anyone can do it without fear of getting it wrong," says Brewster's creative director, Paula Berberian.

Brewster is one of America's oldest independent, family-owned wall covering companies and spans five generations.

"There's no fuss, if you change your mind, you can change your design," she says. "For under 100 bucks, you can dramatically change a room with these products."

Decals

Forget wallpaper — use these self-adhering prints for a fun, graphic effect. "These are made in America with a technologically advanced micro-sphere adhesive," Berberian says. "They can be peeled off without harming paint and leave no sticky residue. So, it's not a huge commitment. Even if you have no artistic ability, you can choose a wall art kit and it'll look great."

Room panels

Add a few degrees of separation. These panels hang from a ceiling as a room partition, or from a window as an alternative to blinds and curtains. "These are lightweight and easy to hang. They define a space, or can be used on a wall to add dimension," Berberian says.

Window film

They're available in privacy film or decorative stained glass. "Use in a room with a window where you don't want a curtain, but want privacy," suggests Berberian. "The film can take up a whole window or just partial. The stained glass gives a very traditional look and is so expressive, but affordable."

Stained glass applique corners

"These can be used on windows, mirrors or cabinet corners," says Berberian. "There are no right or wrongs — use wherever you need a nice accent."

Chandeliers

The finishing touch: bejewelled or fun chandeliers that fit over a standard fitting (the light bulb should not exceed 40 watts). "I've seen chandeliers over the years and really wanted to do a fun, trendy line," says Berberian. "These add a little glitz to a staid area. It can be whimsical or elegant and it serves a purpose — lighting."

WallPops is available online at wallpops.com.

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Opening up your home for everybody? Make sure you think about your security. NEWSCANADA

Five tips for a safe open house event

Selling your home?
Think about your safety as you prepare for the big day

Hosting an open house is an effective real estate sales tool that your agent will likely recommend, but how can you be sure your security will be kept in check?

"Ask your realtor questions about how to prepare for visitors," says Carla Bouchard, a broker with Royal LePage Metro. "Make sure that you understand what occurs during the open house and how to safeguard your possessions and your home."

Bouchard recommends the following five safety tips as you prepare for the event:

1. Put away items of value
Stow away items such as jewelry and family heirlooms.

Store prescription drugs in a location other than your medicine cabinets.

2. Ask your realtor if they plan to escort people through your home
By giving guided tours to one small group at a time, you won't lose track of the visitors.

3. Keep personal documents out of view
Documents containing financial or personal information should be put away to give you peace of mind when it comes to your privacy.

4. Take inventory of any remaining personal property
Make notes or take photographs of items that you were not able to store and share them with your Realtor prior to your open house.

5. Find out if visitors will be asked for identification.
Keeping a list of visitor information is not only a useful safety tip but also provides a list of prospects to follow up with.

An open house is an opportunity to market your investment to a wide range of potential buyers and it can be a rewarding experience if executed wisely.

NEWSCANADA

Get your green thumb without the watering can

Gardening. This capillary action keeps your indoor seedlings chugging along

Ready. Set. Go. Growing seedlings indoors seems almost like a race. Of course, it has a staggered start, with onions already growing strongly and tomatoes not yet sown.

A simple way to automatically water seedlings is to rely on the soil to draw water up from below by capillary action. This is just how various types of commercially available seedling-growing kits work (available online from such sites as gardeners.com, leevalley.com, burpee.com and charleysgreenhouse.com).

Soil watered by capillary action stays constantly moist, rather than swinging between the extremes of having plant roots cry out for air and then for water.

Capillary watering itself is nothing new. For years, capillary matting — a thick, water-absorbent fabric that does not rot — has been available, mostly to commercial greenhouse growers.

The idea is to let one end of the fabric dip down into a water reservoir while the remainder rests flat on a horizontal surface. Pots of plants sit on the flat mat. If the pots likewise have flat bottoms and the soil within is right up against the bottom of the pots, then a capillary water connection is established throughout.

As plants drink in water, it is replenished by water drawn up from the mat which is, in turn, drawn up from the reservoir.

These capillary-watering seed starters are nifty setups that make it convenient to raise seedlings in your home. A small plastic pan holds water. Into the pan fits a Styrofoam or plastic "table" on which sits the mat, with one end dipping into the water. A multi-celled Styrofoam or plastic planting tray sits atop the mat.

The whole setup is about the size of a three-ring notebook, or half that, depending on the number and size of the cells.

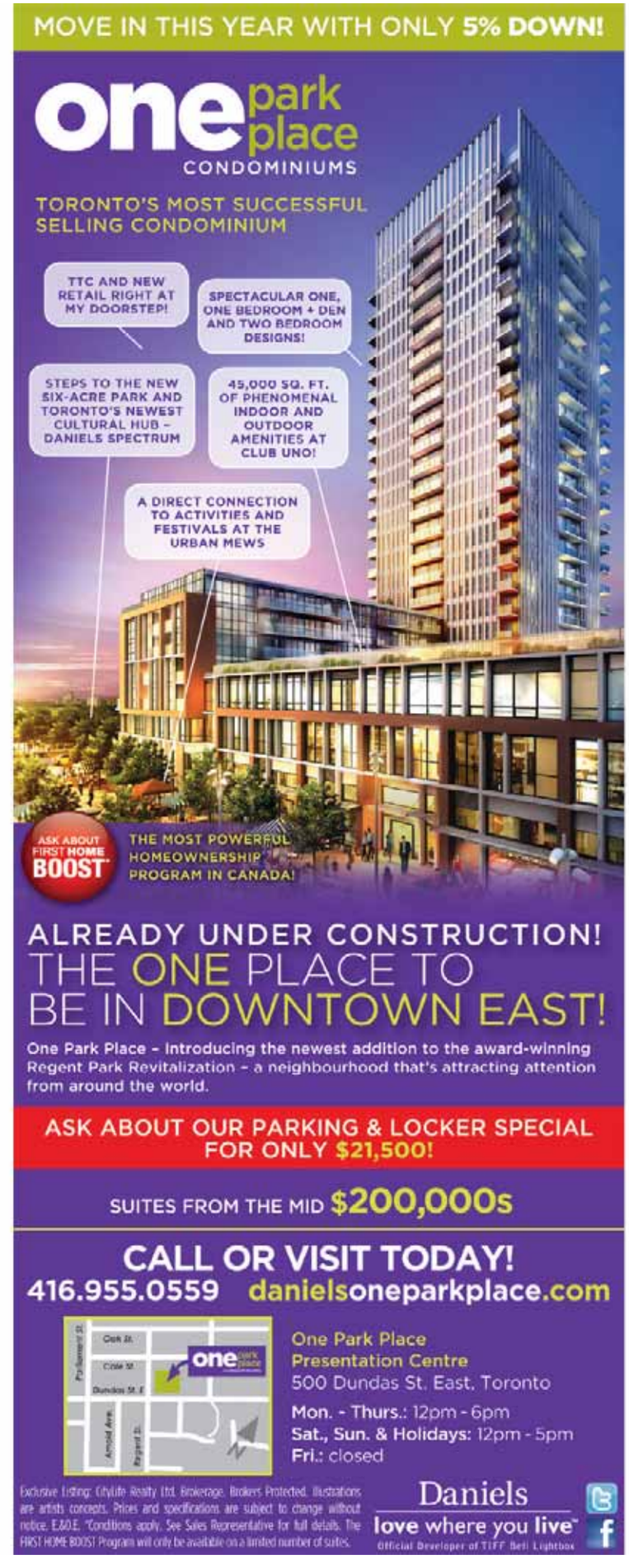
A few other features round out these systems. A clear plastic cover maintains humidity while seeds are germinating, then tucks neatly out of the way under the reservoir. The underside of the "table" looks like a pegboard, and can be flipped over to pop seedlings up out of their cells when they are ready for transplanting. Plant roots knit the soil together to keep it intact during transplanting. And after a cleaning, it's ready for re-use.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Watering these seedlings is crucial as two or three days of neglect could spell death. A simple way to automatically water seedlings is to rely on the soil to draw water up from below by capillary action. LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A few cautionary notes

- Capillary watering does have drawbacks. Water evaporating at the surface of the soil leaves fertilizer salt residues. These residues can accumulate in the soil and draw water out of the roots the same way potato chips dry out your lips. Seedlings generally do not spend enough time in containers to bring on this problem, especially when care is taken not to over-fertilize. If necessary, occasional watering from above will wash the salts down and out of the soil.
- Another problem is that of seedling roots growing out through the bottom of their cells and into the matting. Then plants become difficult to remove from their cells and lose too many roots when they are finally ripped away. I avert this problem by periodically lifting the planting tray up off the mat beginning when the seedlings are large enough for their roots to bind the soil together.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Maple Leafs forward Joffrey Lupul tips a puck past Tampa Bay's Mathieu Garon on Wednesday in Toronto. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leafs end losing slide vs. Lightning

NHL. Kadri, Lupul carry offence in Toronto's first win in six games

Nazem Kadri had three assists and Joffrey Lupul added a goal and an assist as the Toronto Maple Leafs snapped a five-game winless streak with a 4-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Wednesday night.

Kadri and Lupul won the battle against the Lightning's top line featuring Steven Stamkos and Martin St. Louis.

Dion Phaneuf, Tyler Bozak and Nikolai Kulemin also scored for Toronto (16-12-2) before 19,433 at the Air Canada Centre.

Kadri's three points tie a career high (he had a hat trick in the Feb. 28 game against the Islanders). The shifty centre had a chance at a fourth point but was hauled down in front of goal by Teddy Purcell midway through the third period.

Rookies Radko Gudas and Cory Conacher scored consolation goals for Tampa Bay in the third, spoiling James Reimer's shutout attempt.

Tampa outshot Toronto 28-26.

The Leafs had been off since a 5-4 shootout loss to the visiting Winnipeg Jets on Saturday, with their last win coming March 6 — a 5-4 decision over visiting Ottawa.

Toronto gave up 16 goals during the five-game winless slide with Reimer, 0-1-2 during that run, allowing eight goals on 76 shots.

Tampa, while 4-6-0 in its last 10, came into the game on back-to-back wins over Carolina and Philadelphia that saw it score four goals in each game. The Lightning (13-16-1) were without star forward Vincent Lecavalier, who reportedly suffered a broken left foot March 12 against Florida.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Wednesday

Leafs	Lightning
4	2

NBA

Raps bobble away win in Charlotte

Byron Mullens scored 25 points as the Charlotte Bobcats beat the Toronto Raptors 107-101 on Wednesday night to win consecutive games for the first time since mid-November.

Mullens scored 12 points in the fourth quarter, making his final eight free throws, including four with less than 13 seconds to go.

Rudy Gay had 25 points for the Raptors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Heat handle Cavs best in Cleveland

LeBron James scored 25 points as the Miami Heat overcame a 27-point deficit in the third quarter and won their 24th straight game, 98-95 over the shorthanded Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night to extend the second-longest winning streak in NBA history.

The Heat are within nine games of matching the record of 33 consecutive wins held by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Heat forward LeBron James makes a pass over Cavaliers defenders on Wednesday night in Cleveland. GETTY IMAGES

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Dominican triumph comes bittersweet for Jays slugger

WBC. Bautista happy for country but disappointed he wasn't allowed to play in international tourney

The Dominican Republic's Jose Reyes hoists the championship trophy after beating Puerto Rico in the World Baseball Classic final in San Francisco on Tuesday. The Dominican Republic won 3-0. BEN MARGOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Watching his countrymen win the World Baseball Classic was bittersweet for Blue Jays slugger Jose Bautista, who was at once happy to see the Dominican Republic crowned kings of the baseball world and disappointed he couldn't be there to share the victory.

"Obviously it's a great moment for our country and for all the guys that were out there representing their own teams and our country," Bautista said Wednesday. "It was a great moment to experience. It's just too bad that I had to enjoy it on TV and not in person."

The Dominican Republic defeated Puerto Rico 3-0 Tuesday in San Francisco to win the quadrennial international competition.

Bautista had hoped to play in the tournament, but was refused by Jays GM Alex Anthopoulos, who wanted to keep a close eye on his all-star right-fielder as he returned from season-ending wrist surgery.

However, the Blue Jays were still well-represented on the Dominican roster, with Jose Reyes and Edwin Encarnacion, plus minor leaguers Moises Sierra and Ricardo Nanita all wearing their country's colours. Melky Cabrera and Esmil Rogers were named to preliminary rosters, but declined.

Quoted

"I'm not happy about it because I wanted to be playing."

Jose Bautista on being held back from playing in the WBC by the Blue Jays

Reyes and Encarnacion combined to score the game-winning run in the first inning on Tuesday, with Encarnacion driving Reyes home on a double after Reyes himself led off the inning with a two-base hit. Reyes added a triple later in the game.

By the sounds of it, Bautista was desperate to join them. "I wanted to play, that's not in question. I attempted on multiple occasions to get permission from the club and unfortunately it didn't happen."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tennis

U.S. Open to serve up major increase in prize money

After a year of closed-door meetings with tennis players seeking a greater say in the sport and a larger slice of Grand Slam revenues, the U.S. Open is making big changes.

New York's Grand Slam will increase its annual prize money to $50 million by 2017 — roughly double what it was last year — and permanently schedule the men's semi-finals on Friday and men's final on Sunday starting in 2015.

As part of an unprecedented five-year agreement with the men's and women's professional tours, the U.S. Open also is making an additional $4.1-million increase to this year's prize pool, on top of an already-record $4-million jump announced in December. That brings the 2013 total payout to $33.6 million from the $25.5 million in 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curling

Homan moves into tie for third at worlds

Canada's Rachel Homan faced her biggest challenge yet at the women's world curling championship Wednesday and came through with a pair of impressive victories.

She significantly improved her playoff chances in the process.

Homan entered the evening draw at the Volvo Sports Center in a tie with Switzerland for fourth place in the round-robin standings. The Ottawa skip played arguably her best game of the tournament in a 7-4 win over Silvana Tirinzoni. Homan beat Germany's Andrea Schopp 8-5 earlier in the day.

The 23-year-old Canadian is tied with Russia at 6-3, good for third place in the standings.

Homan will play China on Thursday morning and close out her round-robin schedule in the afternoon against Japan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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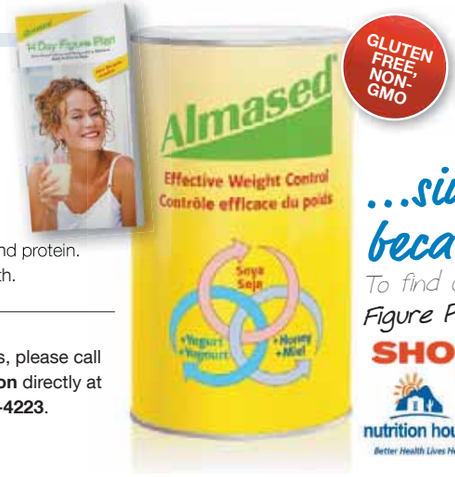

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Gonzaga's Kelly Olynyk (13) reacts with his team during the West Coast Conference tournament championship, March 11. This year's March Madness tournament is packed with talented Canadians like Olynyk. JULIE JACOBSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NCAA mad for top Canadian talent

March Madness.
21 of nation's 33 players have won regular-season awards

Canada Basketball is running its own March Madness fantasy pool, with one unique rule: Entrants must name five Canadian players to their teams.

There would have been slim pickings in years past. But there's not just an abundance of Canadian players this year; there's a wealth of star players.

From Gonzaga's Kelly Olynyk and Kevin Pangos to UNLV's Anthony Bennett and Nik Stauskas of the Michigan Wolverines, Canadians have taken the NCAA by storm, providing one of the most intriguing story lines of the tournament.

"When you can turn on (a game) almost any night during the season and see a Canadian playing, it clearly is a new dimension that we've entered here," said Rowan Barrett, executive vice-president of Canada's men's program.

Sports Illustrated dedicated six pages of its March Madness issue to players from north of the border under the headline Canada's Got Talent.

There are 27 Canadian men playing in March Madness and six women.

Olynyk, a seven-foot forward from Kamloops, B.C., and Pangos, a point guard from Holland Landing, Ont., have landed in the spotlight this season in leading Gonzaga (31-2) to one of the NCAA tournament's four top seeds.

Olynyk's breakout season earned him the West Coast Conference player of the year. The Canadian, who averaged 17.7 points and 7.0 rebounds a game, is also up for the John R. Wooden Award as the NCAA's top player.

Bennett, from Brampton, Ont., collected Mountain West Conference freshman of the year in leading UNLV, and is a projected top-five NBA draft pick.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Notable Canucks

Among other award winners, Bennett's teammate Khem Birch of Montreal was conference defensive player of the year, Olivier Hanlan of Aylmer, Que., (Boston College) was the ACC's rookie of the year, while Sim Bhullar, a seven-foot-five forward from Toronto (New Mexico State), earned WAC freshman of the year honours.

MLB

Montreal group to determine viability of MLB return

Warren Cromartie is convinced that Major League Baseball can be reborn in Montreal.

The former Expos outfielder and head of the Montreal Baseball Project, a group whose aim is to bring the major leagues back to the city, says he'll know soon whether fans and the business community really want it.

His group and the Montreal Board of Trade launched a feasibility study on Wednesday to see if conditions are right and the interest is there.

"The group that I assembled will make it clear to everyone ... that we're serious about bringing it back," Cromartie said at a news conference. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former Montreal Expo Warren Cromartie THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	53	14	.791	—
Indiana	42	26	.618	11 1/2
New York	40	26	.606	12 1/2
Brooklyn	39	28	.582	14
Atlanta	38	30	.559	15 1/2
Chicago	36	30	.545	16 1/2
Boston	36	30	.545	16 1/2
Milwaukee	34	33	.507	19
Philadelphia	26	40	.394	26 1/2
Toronto	**26**	**42**	**.382**	**27 1/2**
Washington	23	43	.348	29 1/2
Detroit	23	46	.333	31
Cleveland	22	46	.324	31 1/2
Orlando	18	51	.261	36
Charlotte	16	52	.235	37 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	51	16	.761	—
Oklahoma City	50	18	.735	1 1/2
Memphis	45	21	.682	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	46	22	.676	5 1/2
Denver	47	22	.681	5
Golden State	39	30	.565	13
Houston	36	31	.537	15
L.A. Lakers	36	33	.522	16
Utah	34	33	.507	17
Dallas	32	35	.478	19
Portland	31	36	.463	20
Minnesota	23	42	.354	27
Sacramento	24	44	.353	27 1/2
Phoenix	23	45	.338	28 1/2
New Orleans	22	46	.324	29 1/2

Note: division leaders ranked in top three positions regardless of winning percentage.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Miami 98 Cleveland 95
Charlotte 107 Toronto 101
New York 106 Orlando 94
Atlanta 98 Milwaukee 90
Brooklyn at Dallas
Boston at New Orleans
Utah at Houston
Oklahoma City at Memphis
Golden State at San Antonio
Washington at Phoenix
Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers
TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Indiana 95 Orlando 73
Milwaukee 102 Portland 95
Denver 114 Oklahoma City 104
Sacramento 116 L.A. Clippers 101
THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
Portland at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Denver, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	31	23	8	0	110	81	46
NY Rangers	29	15	12	2	70	70	32
New Jersey	30	13	11	6	74	84	32
NY Islanders	29	13	13	3	86	96	29
Philadelphia	30	13	16	1	81	92	27

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	29	19	5	5	92	73	43
Boston	28	19	6	3	82	60	41
Ottawa	30	16	8	6	77	65	38
Toronto	30	16	12	2	90	85	34
Buffalo	30	11	15	4	79	95	26

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Winnipeg	30	16	12	2	80	86	34
Carolina	29	15	12	2	84	82	32
Tampa Bay	30	13	16	1	98	90	27
Washington	29	12	16	1	79	87	25
Florida	30	8	16	6	74	110	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	29	24	2	3	100	62	51
St. Louis	29	16	11	2	87	83	34
Detroit	30	14	11	5	80	79	33
Columbus	30	12	12	6	68	79	30
Nashville	30	11	13	6	70	81	28

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Minnesota	29	17	10	2	77	71	36
Vancouver	29	14	9	6	81	82	34
Edmonton	28	11	11	6	69	81	28
Calgary	27	11	12	4	78	91	26
Colorado	28	10	14	4	71	89	24

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	28	21	3	4	95	69	46
Los Angeles	29	17	10	2	88	73	36
San Jose	28	12	10	6	67	74	30
Phoenix	30	13	13	4	79	85	30
Dallas	28	13	12	3	73	84	29

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 4 Tampa Bay 2
Minnesota 4 Detroit 2
Dallas at Colorado
San Jose at Edmonton
Chicago at Anaheim
TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Ottawa 5 NY Islanders 3
NY Rangers 3 New Jersey 2
Florida 4 Carolina 1
Columbus 4 Nashville 3
Pittsburgh 2 Washington 1
Buffalo 3 Montreal 2 (OT)
Winnipeg 3 Boston 1
Vancouver 3 St. Louis 2
Los Angeles 3 Phoenix 2
THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
Florida at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Montreal at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Boston at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Washington at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, LIGHTNING 2

First Period
1. Toronto, Lupul 3 (Kadri, Gunnarsson) 6:56
Penalties — Killorn TBL (tripping) 13:14, Lupul Tor (tripping) 13:39.
Second Period
2. Toronto, Phaneuf 5 (Gunnarsson, Kadri) 0:52
3. Toronto, Bozak 8 (Kessel, Fraser) 6:53
4. Toronto, Kulemin 4 (Kadri, Lupul) 7:22
Penalties — Fraser Tor (fighting) 0:29, Crombeen TBL (fighting) 0:29, Kadri Tor (interference) 8:09, Fraser Tor (roughing) 10:05, Conacher TBL (roughing) 10:05.
Third Period
5. Tampa Bay, Gudas 1 (Labrie, Crombeen) 7:44
6. Tampa Bay, Conacher 8 (Johnson, St-Louis) 17:02
Penalties — Lupul Tor (illegal check to head minor) 0:45, Gunnarsson Tor (holding) 5:07, Purcell TBL (hooking) 10:53.
Shots on goal:

Tampa Bay	6	11	11	—	28
Toronto	8	10	8	—	26

Goal — Tampa Bay: Garon (L, 3-8-0, start, 7:44 third, 18-15), Lindback (6:53 of second, 8-7); Toronto: Reimer (W, 10-4-2).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Tampa Bay: 0-4; Toronto: 0-2.
Attendance — 19,433 at Toronto.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Friends say you can do no wrong but for one reason or another you don't entirely believe them. Maybe you should reserve judgment until you feel more positive about yourself. When will that be? Any moment now.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You live by certain standards but you cannot expect everyone else to live by them too. Sometimes, you can be a bit too judgmental. The planets warn that the person you judge today could be the one judging you tomorrow.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Do you commit yourself to a course of action that could boost your reputation or do you play safe and leave things just as they are? You were born to take chances.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Everything you touch will turn out just right today. But don't get carried away as the planets warn your gains could be wiped out if you push your luck too far. Know when to stop.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The only pressure you will feel today is the pressure you choose to put on yourself. Whatever your problems, push them to one side and focus only on things that make you happy.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You seem to be on the verge of accepting some kind of deal, and it certainly looks good. But appearances can be deceptive and the planets warn you should wait a day or two.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
By all means, tell the truth today but expect some kind of backlash for your honesty. Other people will not be happy if you point out their failings, so ask yourself: Is it really worth opening my mouth?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Even if you are following a path you have taken before, you could fall on your face today. That does not mean you should stay home — just watch where you put your feet!

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be confident that a scheme of some kind cannot fail but don't expect too much of it right away. The omens are good for the long-term but in the short-term there may be one or two setbacks.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You believe in telling it as you see it, which is good. But some people can be super sensitive to criticism, so don't overdo it. Tone down your comments a bit today so you are less likely to get a negative reaction.

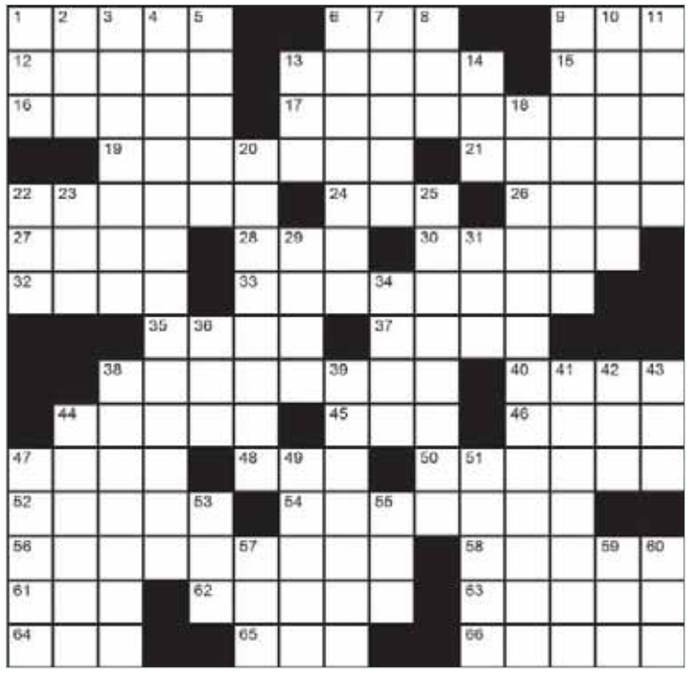
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Some people prefer to get others to help them rather than do things for themselves and one such person is beginning to annoy you. Let them know in no uncertain terms that you will no longer indulge their laziness.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be tempted to ditch a project that has already been started and begin all over again but is that truly necessary? No, it's not. It will come out right.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

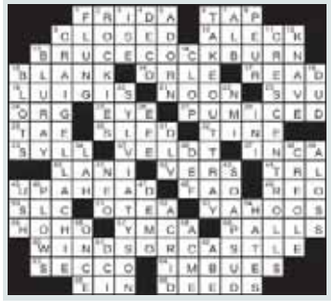
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Ms. Lake of TV talk
6. Inc., in England
9. Booker T.'s backup
12. Walk _ __ line
13. __ corn: 2 wds.
15. Queen's "We __ the Champions"
16. "You can __ _ horse to water..."
17. Seth Rogen flick, with The: 2 wds.
19. Connecting-stuff-to-a-PC spot, _ _ _ ___
21. Wander
22. Spa treatment
24. "The Addams Family" cousin
26. 911 respondents
27. Secret __. (Alias)
28. Dined
30. Roy __, Robert Redford's "The Natural" (1984) role
32. Ernie's muppet friend
33. Fajita need
35. Crown getter
37. Latin hymn: "Dies __"
38. Back together
40. Face part
44. Jacket sported by a '60s rocker
45. Ex-Bruin Bobby
46. Honeymaker's home
47. _ ___ _ (Edmonton sch.)
48. Chairman in The Beatles' "Revolution"
50. Spoke from the podium
52. Fishhook line
54. Beavers, whilst using their teeth
56. Toronto-based romance novel publisher
58. "Going to _ __-__" by Smokey Robinson & The Miracles
61. Scot's uncle
62. Kelly Clarkson's "Since _ __ Gone"
63. Camping needs
64. Riddle-me-__
65. "Hiss!"
66. Toronto football players, to fans

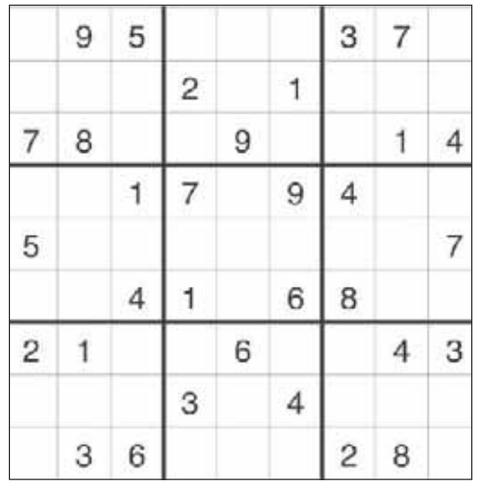
Down
1. Singer Mr. Donner
2. 'Favour' suffix
3. The Canterbury†Tales writer
4. Canuck sketch comedy troupe: The __: 4 wds.
5. "Dancing with the Stars" judge Carrie Ann
6. Sir Wilfrid __
7. Country singer, Travis __
8. Cdn. currency
9. Xylophone-like instrument
10. Defrauds
11. Sevens: French
13. Inflated id
14. Bouquet delivery co.
18. "Brand New Low" band from Sault Ste. Marie: 2 wds.
20. "Doesn't Really Matter" by __ Blonde
22. Little lie
23. 'Lemon' suffix
25. Fairly-near-the-stage area: 2 wds.
29. Ms. Spelling
31. 'Pay' suffix
34. Level
36. Italy's li'l locale
38. Sports official
39. Two-dollar coins
41. NYC's Brill Building output: 2 wds.
42. "__ Got a Feeling" by The Beatles
43. Heath Ledger/Orlando Bloom movie, "__ Kelly" (2003)
44. Generic grocery store brand: 2 wds.
47. One-named male vocalist
49. Chills
51. Ranch in "Giant" (1956)
53. Currency in Romania
55. Ms. Jillian
57. Some CFL players
59. Ronny & The Daytonas smash
60. Old spy gr.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

1	9	8	3	4	6	2	5	7
4	7	6	5	2	1	8	3	9
3	5	2	7	8	9	1	4	6
8	3	7	9	5	2	6	1	4
2	4	5	6	1	7	3	9	8
6	1	9	4	3	8	7	2	5
9	6	3	1	7	4	5	8	2
5	2	4	8	6	3	9	7	1
7	8	1	2	9	5	4	6	3

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60%
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GLS model shown

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CITY: **7.1**L/100 KM▼

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INCLUDES **$750** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

SE with Tech. shown

HWY: **5.3**L/100 KM
CITY: **7.8**L/100 KM▼

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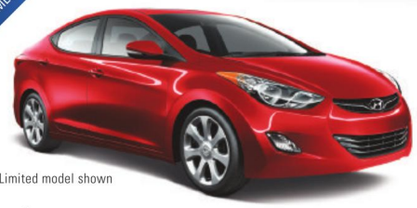
2013 BEST NEW SMALL CAR (OVER $21K)

OWN IT FOR	WITH	AND	OR	GET UP TO
$111 BI-WEEKLY	**0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS	**$0** DOWN PAYMENT		**$2,000** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ ON SELECT TRIMS

INCLUDES **$500** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ



Limited model shown

HWY: **5.2**L/100 KM
CITY: **7.1**L/100 KM▼

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Limited model shown

HWY: **7.7**L/100 KM
CITY: **10.4**L/100 KM▼

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